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	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

JUNE

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

JULY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

AUGUST

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

- 1st Race 7pm
- 1st Race 6pm
- 1st Race 5pm



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IF YOU WEREN'T A BARTENDER, WHAT WOULD YOU BE?: Lawyer

BEST PICK-UP LINE: There are no good pickup lines

WORST DATE YOU'VE WITNESSED: I've seen a lot of walkouts

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WHAT IS THE NEXT BIG TREND IN COCKTAILS: Infused liquers

COOLEST REASON FOR CELEBRATION BY A PATRON:
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CRAZIEST THING YOU'VE SEEN FROM BEHIND THE BAR: It's all crazy

BEST HANGOVER CURE: Hair of the dog

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— 2017 —

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On Jaylin: Sports bra from Cliché, top from Dolls Kill, culottes from Buffalo exchange.

On Clare: Bodysuit from Urban Outfitters, skirt from American Apparel, jacket from Rewind Vintage, necklace by KNZ.

On Eka: Top by Fee Perella, one-piece from American Apparel, skirt from Rewind, gold choker from Buffalo Exchange, custom necklace by Larissa Loden infused with jewels by Ilo Studio.

Photo by Emily Utne, styling by Sarah White, makeup by Toddi Rogers, hair by Haus Salon



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Art Direction & Photography

EMILY UTNE

Illustrations

KELLY ABELN

Hair

MACKENZIE TORSCH, BRITTANY LARSON,
and CAITLIN DVORAK (Haus Salon team)

Makeup

TODDI ROGERS

Styling

SARAH WHITE

Models

TAY GODSEY (Ignite Models),
JAYLIN CARLSON (Ignite Models), CLARE CHO,
and EKA (Vision Models)

Location

IGNITE MODELS
and CAN CAN WONDERLAND

Photo Assisting

COLIN MICHAEL SIMMONS

on the cover

Shirt from Martin Patrick 3, bolo from Rewind Vintage, jacket from Askov Finlayson, vest by Lindsay Rhyner, jeans from Buffalo Exchange, shoes from Cal Surf

SPECIAL THANKS TO: Askov Finlayson, Martin Patrick 3, Showroom, Rewind Vintage, Buffalo Exchange, Cliché, Everyday People, Pacify MPLS, Lindsay Rhyner, Mona Nunez, Requisite D'NOLO, Cal Surf, My Sister, Hazel Stroschein, Bisbie and Diablo Guitars.

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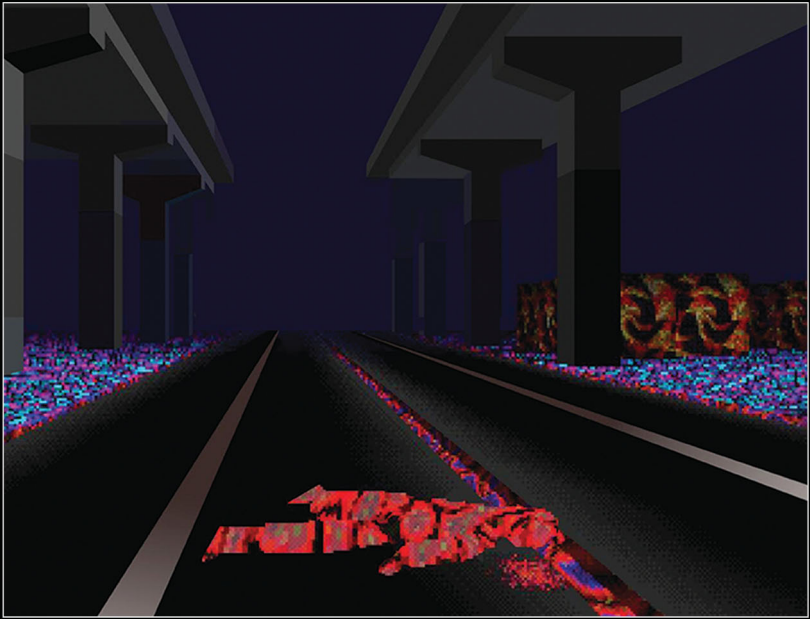
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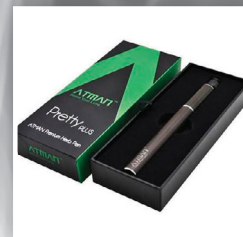
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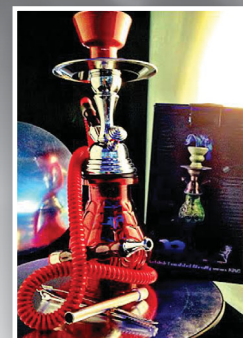
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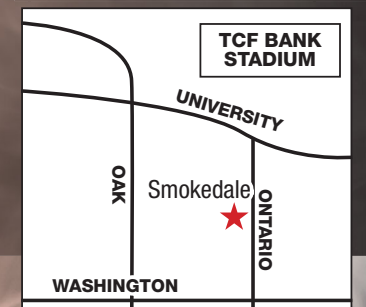
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Readers' Choice

ARTS & CULTURE

Best Art Gallery: Gallery 360
Best Art Supplies: Blick Art Materials
Best Bookstore (New): Magers & Quinn
Best Bookstore (Used): Half Price Books
Best Comedy Club: Acme Comedy Co.
Best Comedy Open Mic: Acme Comedy Co.
Best Fashion Show: Ready or Hot: Fashion Meets Passion for Planned Parenthood
Best Fashion Designer: Kindred Folk
Best Standup Comic: Jenn Schaal
Best Movie Theater: Showplace ICON Theatre at West End
Best Museum: Minneapolis Institute of Art
Best Theater: Guthrie Theater

MUSIC

Best Album: *Coconut Oil* by Lizzo
Best Club DJ: DJ Shannon Blowtorch
Best Concert: The Official Prince Tribute Concert at Xcel Energy Center
Best Concert (Touring): Adele at Xcel Energy Center
Best Concert Venue: First Avenue/7th St. Entry
Best Hip-Hop Artist: Lizzo
Best Jukebox: Grumpy's NE
Best Karaoke: Vegas Lounge
Best Local Record Label: Doomtree
Best Music Festival: Basilica Block Party
Best New Band: Hippo Campus
Best R&B Artist: Lizzo
Best Record Store Day Location: Electric Fetus
Best Vocalist: Dessa

TALK OF THE TOWN

Best Coach: Cheryl Reeve
Best Instagram: @eatdrinkdishmpls
Best Lynx Player: Lindsay Whalen
Best Radio Personality: Mary Lucia (89.3 the Current)
Best Radio Station: 89.3 the Current
Best Sports Team: Minnesota Wild
Best Timberwolves Player: Karl-Anthony Towns
Best TV Newscaster: Jana Shortal
Best Sportscenter: Mark Rosen
Best TV Station: KARE 11
Best Twins Player: Brian Dozier
Best Vikings Player: Harrison Smith
Best Wild Player: Zach Parise

CITY LIFE

Best Beach: Hidden Beach
Best Boutique: Patina
Best Bowling Alley: Bryant-Lake Bowl
Best Casino: Mystic Lake
Best Dance Club: First Avenue
Best Festival: Minnesota State Fair
Best Gaming Shop: GameStop

Best Gym: The Firm
Best Hotel: The Saint Paul Hotel
Best Lingerie Store: Smitten Kitten
Best Place to Buy Vinyl: Electric Fetus
Best Place to Do Yoga: CorePower Yoga
Best Place to Ice Skate: The Depot
Best Place to People-Watch: Minnesota State Fair
Best Place to Shoot Pool: Grumpy's Downtown
Best Public Park: Minnehaha Park and Falls
Best Salon/Spa: Juut SalonSpa
Best Tattoo Parlor: Saint Sabrina's
Best Thrift Store: Arc's Value Village
Best Vintage Shop: Junket: Tossed and Found

FOOD & DRINK

Best BBQ: Revival
Best Bloody Mary: Hell's Kitchen
Best Breakfast: Keys Cafe & Bakery
Best Brunch: Blackbird Cafe
Best Burger: Matt's Bar
Best Chinese: Rainbow Chinese
Best Cocktail Bar: Tattersall Distilling
Best Coffee Shop: Spyhouse Coffee
Best Diner: Mickey's Diner
Best Distillery: Tattersall Distilling
Best Dive Bar: Grumpy's NE
Best Doughnuts: Glam Doll Donuts
Best Food Truck: World Street Kitchen
Best Fried Chicken: Revival
Best Fries: The Anchor Fish & Chips
Best Happy Hour: Hola Arepa
Best Ice Cream: Izzy's Ice Cream
Best Italian: Bar La Grassa
Best Korean: The Rabbit Hole
Best Liquor Store: Surdyk's Liquor & Cheese Shop
Best Local Beer: Surly Furious
Best Lunch: French Meadow Bakery & Cafe
Best Margarita: Betty Danger's Country Club
Best Mexican: Boca Chica Restaurante Mexicana
Best New Restaurant: Hi-Lo Diner
Best Pancakes: The Original Pancake House
Best Pizza: Pizza Lucé
Best Ramen: Ramen Kazama
Best Restaurant for Romance: W.A. Frost
Best Restaurant (Minneapolis): Spoon and Stable
Best Restaurant (St. Paul): Meritage
Best Service: The Bachelor Farmer
Best Sports Bar: Bunny's Bar & Grill
Best State Fair Food: Sweet Martha's Cookies
Best Steak: Manny's Steakhouse
Best Suburban Eats: Travail Kitchen & Amusements
Best Sushi: Fuji Ya
Best Tacos: Taco Cat
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Best Vietnamese: Quang Restaurant
Best Wings: D-Spot



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Lucy Hawthorne, E. Katie Holm,
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MARKETING INTERN Maddie Brechlin

Circulation

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Business and Administration

CUSTOMER SRV/FINANCE REP Candace Baker
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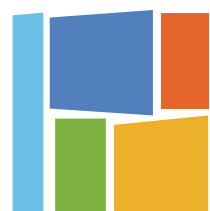
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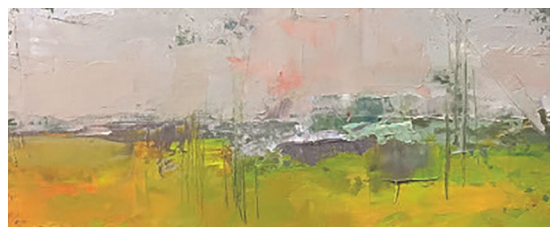
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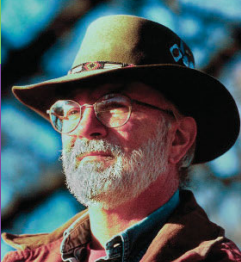
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Arts & Culture

BEST MUSEUM

Walker Art Center

725 Vineland Place
Minneapolis
612-375-7600

walkerart.org

You'd think that the Walker Art Center's new lobby off Vineland Place has always been there. The brand-new, open, cheery gathering space offers a warm welcome to museum visitors. The Walker's new restaurant, Esker Grove, is another addition, with delicious food and drink from the creative mind of chef Doug Flicker (and there's the added luxury of sipping your cocktail against the backdrop of Frank Big Bear's new collage, *Multiverse #10*). The Walker also triumphed this year with the opening of its much-anticipated Merce Cunningham exhibition, a collection of dance ephemera including sets, photography, costumes, and even live performances; Chris Larson's collaboration with Grant Hart resulted in a rock 'n' roll exploration of memory; and "Question the Wall Itself" turned the world of interior design on its head, examining how decor and the use of space can impact culture and politics. We can't wait for the reopening of the Minneapolis Sculpture Garden this spring, which will include a variety of new sculptures and old favorites.

Readers' Choice:
Minneapolis Institute of Art

BEST ART GALLERY

All My Relations Gallery

1414 E. Franklin Ave.
Minneapolis
612-235-4970

allmyrelationsarts.com

All My Relations has had a number of different curators since the gallery became a part of the Native American Community Development Initiative in 2011. But even as the program has grown and changed, it's remained steadfast in highlighting the excellence and clarity of vision among contemporary Indigenous artists from Minnesota and elsewhere. Over the course of this year, the gallery has offered the insightful "Reframing Minnesota," which both challenged and proposed an alternative to problematic artwork at the State Capitol (some of which has since been taken down). It has also developed initiatives, under the direction of new gallery director Rory Wakemup, to engage with the neighborhood and local Native community in participatory art. Recent projects include workshops where participants made reflective shields that were

then sent to Standing Rock to be part of a performance protest.

Readers' Choice: Gallery 360

BEST MUSEUM EXHIBITION

Ken Gonzales-Day: "Shadowlands"

Minnesota Museum of American Art
mmaa.org

California-based photographer, researcher, and writer Ken Gonzales-Day mines the history of racial violence in the United States through his provocative work, which was on view this year in "Shadowlands." By digitally altering photographs, he erased lynching victims, shifting the focus of those gruesome scenes to the crowd watching the horrific spectacle. Other work on view in this exhibit, curated by Christopher Atkins, included photographs documenting the artist's own journey to find the trees that were used for lynchings, and composite works juxtaposing lynching re-enactments with photographs of protests against police violence today. In all, it was a compelling and thought-provoking exhibition.

BEST PUBLIC ART

Erin Sayer's Prince stencils

Even though the Purple One left this mortal Earth last April, the echoes of his influence can be seen and heard all over town. That includes art tributes like Erin Sayer's spray-paint series. Spotting a Prince stencil by the local muralist and painter is a magical treat, like a Minnesota-flavored *Where's Waldo*. After the icon's death, Sayer began spray-painting his image throughout the Twin Cities. The gorgeous stencil, featuring Prince in all his purple, confident, afro'd glory, can be spotted on neighborhood fences, on shed doors, on existing murals, and outside businesses in north, south, and northeast Minneapolis. Keep your eye out for him.

BEST ART CRAWL

FLOW: Northside Arts Crawl

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Minneapolis
612-353-5178

flownorthside.org

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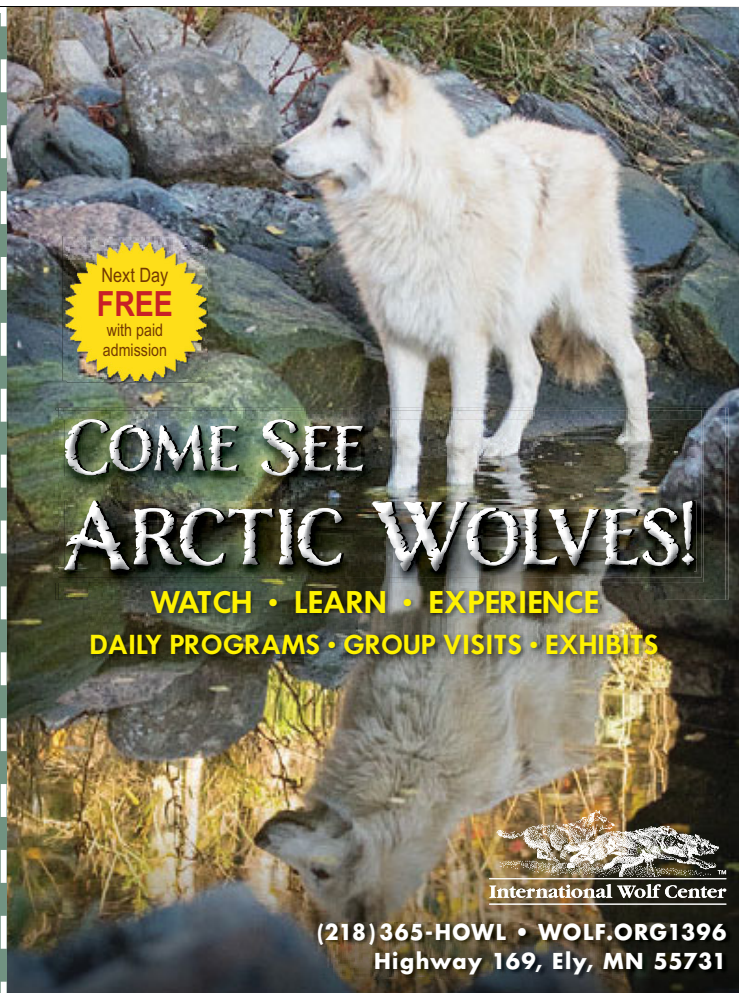
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screenings, fine art shows, and community meals. Each year, art and activities take over the storefronts of businesses and organizations, as well as outdoor spaces along West Broadway Avenue. FLOW is also one of the more family-friendly art crawls offered in the Twin Cities. Whether you hit up the block party, take a tour of exhibitions, catch a performance or film, or help paint a mural, the festival is a great chance to enjoy all the amazing art and creativity that North Side businesses and people have to offer.

BEST GALLERY EXHIBITION

Lindsay Rhyner: "PRV's"

Hair and Nails
2222 1/2 E. 35th St.
Minneapolis
612-229-0585

hairandnailsart.com

No, Hair and Nails isn't actually a salon. The unassuming south Minneapolis storefront gallery hit the local art scene last fall, courtesy of visual artist Ryan Fontaine and dancer/choreographer Kristin Van Loon. So far, they've had a string of off-beat, contemporary art shows. Lindsay Rhyner's "PRV's" was especially great. The exhibition featured gorgeously intricate hanging textile pieces with dreamy fish and exotic forests, a creepy installation of body parts and mirrors, and elaborately designed punk vests sporting glittery reptiles, references to vintage video games, and epic floral scenes. Rhyner's mastery of craft fuels her riotous vision;

as a textile-based artist she often explores thrift stores and alleys for materials.

BEST ART SUPPLIES

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Minneapolis
612-872-8088

artmaterialsonline.com

The name says it all here. For years, Art Materials in south Minneapolis has been the spot for supplies, whether you're a professional artist, are working on a home project, or are simply a creative dabbler. If you need supplies for your next gallery show, you'll be happy to discover a bevy of high-quality paints, brushes, canvases, and more. If you're getting into calligraphy, you've got your own aisle as well. If you have a framing project you'd like to take on yourself, the staff can help you work through their variety of mounting-board options. Pick out some sweet markers for your kids, and browse the adult coloring books for yourself. Whatever your muse is, you'll have options to make your inspiration a reality here.

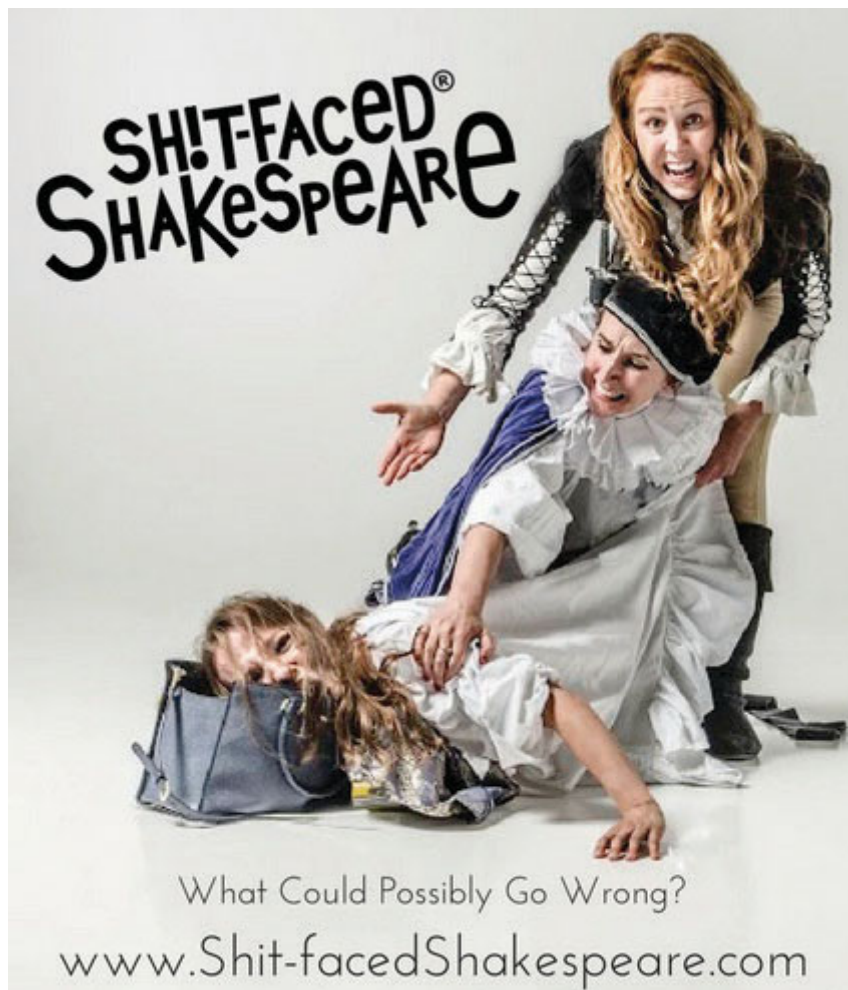
Readers' Choice: Blick Art Materials

BEST FASHION SHOW

Envision

envisionmpls.com

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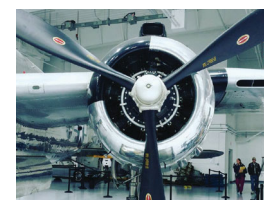
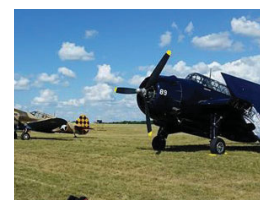
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SHE'S A BAD WITCH WITH SOME DAMN GOOD IDEAS

CHAPTER XLVII



distant relative, but not untouched by that strain of 'eccentricity' which affects us all, Grizelda Brewmaster had summoned me to the misty shores of Albion with a note attached to a crow's leg. She claimed to have invented a brew that mimicked the gin & tonic precisely. Juniper, spruce, quinine, all jostling about in bubbly bliss. On my way up the twisting, lonely lane to her precarious cottage, I mused on the warnings of the villagers below. 'Yowza, you're going to the witch's house?!' I was. Seldom in life does one get to choose their family, and neither did I...



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mad as a bag of ferrets:
INSIGHTBREWING.COM

invites people interested in Twin Cities fashion (and those who just want an excuse to get dressed up) to a party highlighting local designers and boutiques. Past shows have included the likes of Cliché, George Moskal, Idle Child, Kindred Folk, Raul Osorio, and Russell Bourrienne. With 10 or so designers featured at each celebration, it's clear that the Envision team knows how to make a big runway show with many moving parts work. They care about the designers and their passion, and it shows — even if you didn't score seats in the front row. The next installment happens this week on Friday, April 21.

Readers' Choice: Ready or Hot: Fashion Meets Passion for Planned Parenthood

BEST FASHION DESIGNER

Russell Bourrienne

711 W. Lake St., Ste. 510
Minneapolis
612-709-7327

russellbourrienne.com

It's hard to do menswear right, but Russell Bourrienne hits it out of the park every time. He's a mainstay of local fashion shows, including Envision. His beautifully tailored pieces manage to blend elements of the past with the trends of today. A garment from Bourrienne — be it a cape, suit, coat, knickers, or shirt — could be right at home in 1965, but it still looks fresh in 2017. The designer plays with pattern and color in an inspiring way that feels fashion-forward, but wouldn't be too crazy for your Monday morning meeting, either. Custom pieces are available from Bourrienne by appointment at his Uptown studio.

Readers' Choice: Kindred Folk

BEST BOOKSTORE (NEW)

Milkweed Books

1011 Washington Ave. S.
Minneapolis
612-215-2540

milkweed.org

The Open Book building is a testament to the power of local business collaboration. Inside the space, you'll find that it's a hub for all things literary. There's a performance hall that hosts readings, a writing school (the Loft Literary Center), an award-winning publishing house (Milkweed), a store/gallery (Minnesota Center for Book Arts), a coffee shop, and the newest tenant, Milkweed Books. The bookshop is small, but mighty, with a curated collection featuring fiction, poetry, nonfiction, and young-adult selections from Milkweed and other small presses. In the coming years,

the nonprofit organization hopes to create a monthly service where books will be delivered via bike. But in the meantime, the Milkweed Books is a welcome addition to a bustling, literary neighborhood.

Readers' Choice: Magers & Quinn

BEST BOOKSTORE (USED)

Magers & Quinn

3038 Hennepin Ave. S.
Minneapolis
612-822-4611

magersandquinn.com

If any bookstore is destined to endure, it's Magers & Quinn, that Uptown oasis of all things literary since 1994. While the tables and displays of new books will catch your eye immediately upon entry, it's the used book selection that's really worth exploring. With rare finds, collectibles, and obscure editions, there's always something unexpected waiting for you here. Hardcore bibliophiles will also appreciate the scent of the store — olfactory proof of the multitudes of much-beloved and well-read volumes contained therein. Unsure where to begin? The staff can point you in the right direction; avid readers themselves, they're bound to have a recommendation on which story to get lost in next.

Readers' Choice: Half Price Books

BEST AUTHOR

Louise Erdrich

Move over, F. Scott Fitzgerald. Minnesota has a new authorial icon, and her name is Louise Erdrich. With 15 novels (not to mention poetry and children's books) to her name, Erdrich has created an enviable legacy. Her latest novel, *LaRose*, is a finalist for both the National Book Critics Circle Award and a Minnesota Book Award, accolades that join a Pulitzer Prize nomination for 2007's *The Plague of Doves* and a National Book Award for 2012's *The Round House*. At 62 years old, this bestselling author and literary celebrity shows no signs of slowing down. Not only does she crank out one critically acclaimed book after another, this wordsmith of German and Ojibwe descent also owns Birchbark Books, an independent Minneapolis bookstore with an emphasis on Native American authors.

BEST BOOK (NONFICTION)

The King of Skid Row
by James Eli Shiffer

jamesshiffer.com

Minneapolis isn't what it used to be. Whether you assume that to be good



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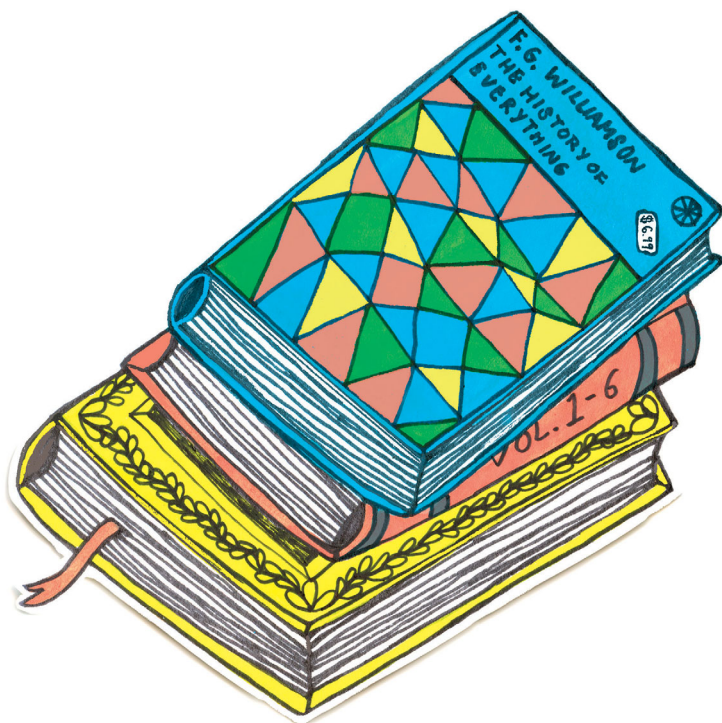
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or bad might change after you read *The King of Skid Row*, a historical account of the Gateway District during the 1950s and '60s by journalist James Eli Shiffer. John Bacich (a.k.a. Johnny Rex) was at the center of it all as the former owner of a bar, liquor store, and “cage hotel” (tiny, one-room crash pads) in the area. Through interviews with, and photographs taken by, Bacich, Shiffer uncovers a forgotten demographic: wayward bachelors bereft of employment, families, or a place to call home. Sociology students researched them, mission workers tried to “save” them, and police busted them for excessive intoxication. Shiffer vividly evokes the neighborhood at its violent and drunken peak in this vivid and fascinating account of a bygone era.

BEST BOOK (FICTION)

Knockout by John Jodzio
johnjodzio.net

John Jodzio's short-story collection *Knockout* pulls no punches. Writing primarily through a first-person point of view, Jodzio lets readers climb into the minds of some seriously disturbed characters in unusual situations: Two dudes fresh out of rehab figure out how to pinch animals unconscious for fun and profit. A family-owned opium den struggles to stay in business when the Opium Depot opens nearby. A grieving man contemplates buying a sex chair from his late mistress' husband at a garage

sale. Jodzio unapologetically spins these bizarre stories that somehow seem plausible — if only in an alternate, whacked version of the universe. While this isn't Jodzio's first go-round with publishing short story collections (2010's *If You Lived Here You'd Already Be Home* and 2011's *Get In If You Want to Live* are equally entertaining), *Knockout* was the first of his tomes to catch the attention of the New York Times, and the reviewer thoroughly enjoyed it.

BEST THEATER

Jungle Theater

2951 Lyndale Ave. S.
Minneapolis
612-822-7063

jungletheater.com

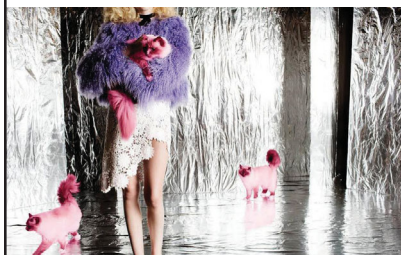
The 2016 season marked the Jungle Theater's first year under its second-ever artistic director. Sarah Rasmussen didn't waste any time making every production a must-see, curating a diverse season that opened the theater's doors to new artists, new work, and new audiences. Every show was thought-provoking and visually striking, taking great advantage of the theater's chamber-scale stage. The joyous all-female *Two Gentlemen of Verona* opened the season, followed by the fascinating *Constellations*, and the moving summertime show *Le Switch*, a premiere play about gay marriage. *Bars and Measures* examined music and social justice, centered on black Americans'

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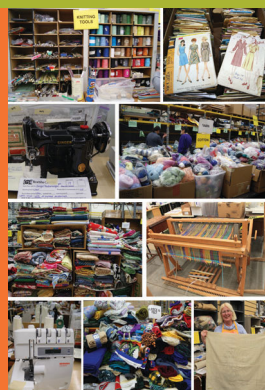
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Arts & Entertainment

experiences. The season closer, *The Oldest Boy*, became a daring meditation on faith and ritual in a Tibetan-American family. Rasmussen has found a new range for this local institution to explore, making the Jungle more essential than ever.

Readers' Choice: Guthrie Theater

BEST PLAY

Two Gentlemen of Verona

Jungle Theater

jungletheater.com

Two Gentlemen of Verona, the all-female production that opened the Jungle Theater's 2016 season, was a celebration of the pure joy of live performance. Amid a generational wave of leadership transitions across town, incoming artistic director Sarah Rasmussen's first show at the Jungle felt like a decisive marker of a bright new era. The traditionally box-like stage was blown open with an abstract pink set. The fourth wall was neither seen nor felt as performers wandered among audience members, some of whom were seated onstage. Best of all, the diverse cast made gold with Shakespeare's script, completely owning the sharp comedy while casting its problematic aspects in a new light. The actors' delight was contagious, from the charming stars to the deadpan supporting players. The production made a case for both change and continuity, for theater as a living art.

BEST ACTRESS

Shelby Richardson

Every so often, a performer comes along who brings such complete conviction that she exerts a gravitational pull, transforming our understanding of everything else happening onstage. Such is the case with Shelby Richardson, whose casting can make any show a must-see. Richardson had two especially powerful performances last year. In Theatre Novi Most's *The Seagull*, she brought such heartfelt sincerity to the part of Nina that she freed the rest of the cast to make hay with Chekhov's comedic side. In *Basic Instinct 1.1*, independently produced in the tiny White Page Gallery, Richardson played the lead role in a transformative reimagining of the Sharon Stone role. The show, which grew out of a solo sketch by Richardson, repeated the film word-for-word and shot-for-shot — but with the male characters entirely removed. With technical precision and bold resolve, Richardson turned an unlikely premise into one of the most compelling shows of the year.



STEPHEN HARTMAN

THURSDAY, MAY 11, 2017

These paintings are about colors we've all seen. Often we don't register or remark on the beauty of colors but our eyes have taken them in. Color affects everything and is everywhere. Notice your mood change when after a period of gloomy and cloudy days, the sun comes out. The light brings color. I find that rural Minnesota winters are a great inspiration for thinking of, remembering, and depicting colors.

That's what these paintings are, memories of colors we've all seen.

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Arts & Culture



ing on our deep well of local talent. With *Gypsy*, he took a show famous for its dark corners and shone a razzle-dazzle light that emphasized the material's glorious theatricality. In the fall, by contrast, Rothstein led a gut-wrenching *Ragtime* that chose lean, pointed resonance over distracting stage business. It was further evidence of his ability to put the Ritz's unique space to good use, promising many great things to come from this perfect pairing.

BEST THEATER TROUPE

Sandbox Theatre

3109 E. 42nd St.
Minneapolis

sandboxtheatreonline.com

"Best Theater Troupe" is not the same as "Most Consistent Theater Troupe," but even last summer's cheesy *600 Years* had a weirdly undeniable energy that was a testament to this group's skill at building collaborative, self-contained worlds. Sandbox turned Park Square's Boss Thrust Stage into a boxing ring for the elegiac *Queens*, then used that same space to get inside the mind of game-show addict Michael Larson for the character study *Big Money*. With Derek Lee Miller stepping aside as artistic director, the 13-year-old company is currently exploring new ways of structuring its organization to give the creators of each show maximum room to roam. Local theater fans will be watching with interest to see what the future holds for these perpetually curious creators.

BEST MOVIE THEATER

Showplace ICON Theatre at West End

1625 West End Blvd.
St. Louis Park
612-568-0375

theshopsatwestend.com/showplace-icon-theaters

This cushy monolith is the best movie theater for a few reasons: the VIP section with its enormous chairs meant for lounging, the upstairs bar where you can order chicken strips or nachos and eat them while you watch your movie, the fact that they actually drizzle real butter on your popcorn. (It sounds silly, but once you go real you'll never go back to the room temperature, neon-yellow stuff they have at other theaters.) Going to a movie should be an immersive experience; at the Showplace ICON, you can pretend you're watching the new *Star Wars* flick from the comfort of your own home, but, you know, better. Pay a few extra dollars

BEST ACTOR

Randy Reyes

Randy Reyes is acclaimed as a leader in the theater community, successfully serving as artistic director of Mu Performing Arts since 2013. It was acting that brought Reyes to prominence, though, and while his busy schedule limits the number of onstage roles he can take, he becomes a linchpin of any production he joins. Case in point: *The Oldest Boy*, the reflective Sarah Ruhl play that provided a long-overdue showcase for Asian American performers at the Jungle Theater. Reyes brought gentle conviction to the role a Tibetan Buddhist whose American wife (Christina Baldwin) is learning to embrace a faith that suddenly presents a profound challenge. Even better was Mu's own *tot*, wherein Reyes pulled off the daunting trick of playing a school-age boy seething with hurt and frustration after immigrating to America from the Philippines. It was painful to watch, but impossible to look away from.

BEST DIRECTOR

Peter Rothstein

Last year was the latest in a series of triumphant years for Theatre Latté Da. The company purchased the Ritz Theater, giving themselves a permanent home and guaranteeing that the northeast Minneapolis landmark will remain in active use as a venue for live entertainment. It was a coup, and rightly applauded. All of that, though, was built on the steady eye of Peter Rothstein. Last year, once again, he demonstrated his gifts for giving classic musicals a fresh and intimate feel, draw-

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Showplace ICON Theatre at West End

BEST OPEN MIC (COMEDY)

Sisyphus Brewing

712 Ontario Ave. W.

Minneapolis

612-444-8674

sisyphusbrewing.com

For up-and-coming comedians in the Twin Cities, finding stage time to work on their craft is essential. While there are many venues — from nationally revered comedy clubs to hole-in-the-wall Mexican restaurants — that offer the opportunity to catch live comedy any night of the week, Sisyphus Brewing has quickly carved out a niche. Its open mic night, hosted by veteran comic Corey Adam, has become known as the freshest, funniest, and best produced one in town. Sisyphus owner Sam Harri-man spent several years as a comedian, so creating the right kind of venue and atmosphere for comedy comes as second nature. The room fits about 90 people, but offers the same stage, lighting, sound, and layout of the bigger clubs in town. Best of all, the taproom has done a great job of cultivating the right kind of audience: one that understands how comedy rooms operate. That means that performers can get solid experience without having to contend with loud talkers or a sizzling fajita platter.

Readers' Choice: Acme Comedy Co.

BEST STANDUP COMIC

Greg Coleman II

Whether he's sharing his experiences working with kids or discussing his dreams of one day owning brand-new furniture, Greg Coleman's delivery and personality make him a force in local comedy. This guy is the real deal. Thanks to his past gig as a radio personality on the old *Tony Fly Morning Show* on B96, Coleman has been making people laugh for years. Since moving on to standup, he has become one of the most consistent performers in town, and one of the most heavily in demand. He's a regular emcee at Acme Comedy Co. and Rick Bronson's House of Comedy, and he has performed just about everywhere, from the Boy Kisses weekly comedy showcase to the University of Minnesota. When he's not onstage, he's a regular contributor to KARE 11's *Breaking the News* program, bringing his brash, insightful viewpoints to the airwaves. It's highly likely that he'll be taking over big-

ger stages both in and out of Minnesota in the not too distant future.

Readers' Choice: Jenn Schaal

BEST COMEDY CLUB

Joke Joint Comedy Club

801 Sibley Memorial Hwy.

St. Paul

651-330-9078

jokejointcomedyclub.com

When it comes to the Twin Cities comedy scene, St. Paul can sometimes end up looking like the little brother. But for the past decade, Joke Joint Comedy Club has proven that the funniest show in town is often happening on the other side of the river. With a steady stream of nationally touring headliners, a great mix of local emcees and feature acts, and a consistently strong open mic night that gives new and established comedians the opportunity to perform in a quality club, Joke Joint has shown it doesn't take a backseat to any room in Minneapolis. In fact, one of the things that makes Joke Joint so much fun is the actual building itself. Its vintage architecture and balcony seating add quite a bit of ambiance to the show, and the layout ensures there isn't a bad seat in the house. The talent that performs at Joke Joint is often a different group than what you'll see at other clubs, giving you the chance to tap into a whole new talent pool you may not have known existed.

Readers' Choice: Acme Comedy Co.

BEST DANCE COMPANY

TU Dance

2121 University Ave. W.

St. Paul

612-605-1925

tudance.org

The TU dancers continue to electrify the local scene, especially in their performance of Uri Sands' *Matter* last November. The work drew on the dancers' personal responses to recent instances of violence and racism with urgency. Sands' complex choreography requires the exacting clarity of ballet melded with scrappy street smarts and urban syncopations. The 10 TU dancers met these demands and raised the ante, moving with the buoyancy of swimmers and the brazen attack of Katniss Everdeen on a mission, demonstrating that they felt equally at home in the air or on the ground. Within the communal framework of *Matter*, dancers showed startling individuality: Kaitlen Setzke Bell's blend of precision and wildness, Youthen Joseph's snaky street grace, Darwin Black's effortless cool. Perhaps Alanna Morris-Van

The graphic features a stylized logo for the 'GREAT NORTHERN UNION CHORUS' in the top left corner. The main text 'hooked feeling!' is written in a large, playful, green and purple font. A small yellow banner with the text 'ON A' and a red heart is placed over the word 'hooked'. Below 'hooked feeling!' is the word 'with' in a small green font, followed by 'Cantus' in a large, purple, serif font. The background is a light green with a white oval shape behind the main text.

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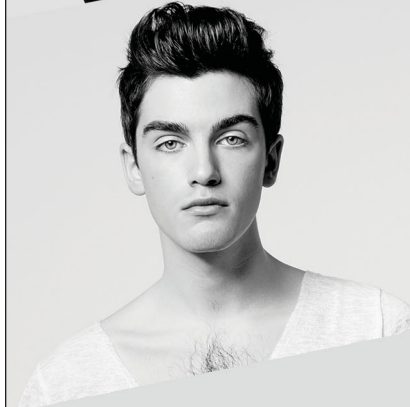


Date: Saturday, May 20th, 2017

Time: Noon to 8 pm

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Arts & Entertainment

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BEST DANCE PERFORMANCE

James Sewell Ballet's
Killer Pig

jsballet.org

In the James Sewell Ballet's performance of *Killer Pig*, by Israeli choreographers Sharon Eyal and Gai Behar, six dancers sampled global styles including ballet, Japanese Butoh, Israeli gaga, and classical Indian dance. The entire ensemble worked as an interconnected unit, rendering the dance's eccentric intricacies with relish. They undulated with percussive ooze as if detonating gel-filled grenades, transforming from creaturely and wild to spare and classical in a beat. Sleek and sensuous, they strutted like prize racehorses or models marching down the runway. Individual dancers showed their stuff: Laurie Nielsen's fluid spine and strident sensuality give her a dramatic, femme fatale allure, while Eve Schulte's Amazonian grandeur suggested tragic Greek heroines. Shohai Iwahama's mercurial wit and protean moves made him the Puck of the pack. Most impressively, these versatile dancers showed the many directions a ballet-trained body can go.

BEST CHOREOGRAPHER

Karen Sherman

karenshermanperformance.org

In *Soft Goods*, Karen Sherman animated dancers, theater technicians, a whole bunch of lights and stage machinery, and the Walker Art Center's entire McGuire Theater. The premise was a tech rehearsal for a production that we never saw. But then we witnessed many performances in this 90-minute event: light and shadow shows, taped and live narratives that overlapped like an Altman movie, dancers working things out and obeying their choreographer's every command, techies coiling cables and traveling up Genie Lifts. There were moments of vaudeville, film noir, rock-show ambiance, pure dance, and silly moves, all rhythmically controlled yet totally unpredictable. Sherman illuminated the beauty of stage machinery and made us realize the vulnerability of those both center and backstage. She used all the bells and whistles of the well-equipped McGuire stage without ever resorting to gimmickry or overkill. She wrapped us in a sensurround experience.

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- 6/14 Delta Rae with Lauren Jenkins
- 6/16 Buddy Guy
- 6/18 Boz Scaggs
- 6/22 An Evening with Dark Star Orchestra
- 6/24 Mason Jennings
- 6/25 Texas Dance Hall Tour: Asleep At The Wheel & Dale Watson
- 6/30 Ziggy Marley

JULY

- 7/2 The B-52s
- 7/6 Ben Harper & The Innocent Criminals
- 7/9 Choo Choo Soul
- 7/10 An Evening with Natalie Merchant
- 7/12 Robert Cray
- 7/14 Jonny Lang
- 7/18 Amos Lee
- 7/19 Amos Lee
- 7/21 Jerry Jeff Walker
- 7/29 Mary Chapin Carpenter
- 7/30 Steve Earle & The Dukes with The Cactus Blossoms & The Mastersons

AUGUST

- 8/5 Gear Daddies
- 8/8 Pat Benatar & Neil Giraldo
- 8/9 Los Lonely Boys with Roger Clyne & the Peacemakers
- 8/10 Dave Koz and Larry Graham
- 8/11 An Evening with Herbie Hancock
- 8/12 BoDeans
- 8/13 Josh Thompson
- 8/18 John Butler Trio with Landon McNamara
- 8/20 Eric Hutchinson
- 8/22 Gregory Alan Isakov & Blind Pilot
- 8/25 Five For Fighting with String Quartet
- 8/29 Indigo Girls
- 8/30 Indigo Girls



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SATURDAY, APRIL 22



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MONDAY, MAY 1
TUESDAY, MAY 2



VULFPECK
JOEY DOSIK
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WEDNESDAY, MAY 3



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SEPULTURA
PRONG
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VALLEY QUEEN
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SATURDAY, MAY 6



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SAM LLANAS
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SATURDAY, MAY 20



TINA AND THE B-SIDES
HIGH UP
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SUNDAY, MAY 21



BONOBO
FAKEAR
\$25/\$27/7PM/18+

TUESDAY, MAY 23



JUSTIN TOWNES EARLE
THE SADIES
SAMMY BRUE
\$22/7PM/18+

FRIDAY, MAY 26



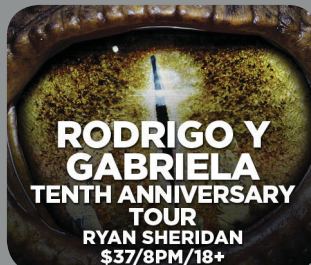
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CLOVES
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THURSDAY, JUNE 1



MARIAN HILL
OPIA
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FRIDAY, JUNE 2



RODRIGO Y GABRIELA
TENTH ANNIVERSARY TOUR
RYAN SHERIDAN
\$37/8PM/18+

SATURDAY, JUNE 3



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WRESTLEPALOOZA X
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THURSDAY, JUNE 15



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LILLIE MAE
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THURSDAY, JUNE 29



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MONDAY, JULY 3



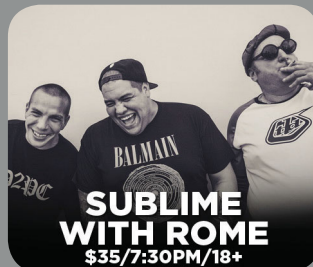
GO 96.3 PRESENTS
MIKE SNOW
KLANGSTOF
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SATURDAY, JULY 8



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WEDNESDAY, JULY 19



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4/28 **CHRIS BARTELS 'MYTHS AND MOLD' RELEASE SHOW** w/ GRAND COURRIERS, A PIANO IN EVERY HOME 21+
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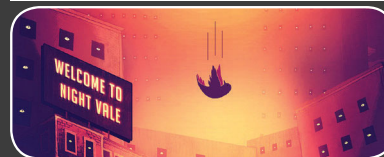
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UPCOMING SHOWS AT OTHER VENUES



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SUNDAY, APRIL 23
WELCOME TO NIGHT VALE
w/ ERIN MCKEOWN
at PANTAGES THEATRE
\$30/6PM/ALL AGES



SUNDAY, APRIL 23
Radio.K presents
CHAZ BUNDICK MEETS THE MATTSO 2
w/ MADELINE KENNEY
at TRIPLE ROCK
\$15/7PM/18+



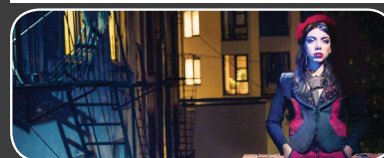
MONDAY, APRIL 24
Go 96.3 presents
COIN
w/ ARIZONA
at TRIPLE ROCK
\$15.50/\$18.50/7PM/18+



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26
HARI KONDABOLU
w/ RAGHAV MEHTA
at THE CEDAR
\$20/7PM/ALL AGES



THURSDAY, APRIL 27
Go 96.3 and City Pages present
TYCHO
w/ BEACON
at PALACE THEATRE
\$29.50/7:30PM/18+



SUNDAY, APRIL 30
89.3 The Current presents
HURRAY FOR THE RIFF RAFF
w/ RON GALLO
at FINE LINE
\$16/7:30PM/18+



TUESDAY, MAY 2
89.3 The Current presents
SLOWDIVE
w/ JAPANESE BREAKFAST
at PALACE THEATRE
\$25/\$30 DOS/7PM/18+



THURSDAY, MAY 4
MEAT PUPPETS and
mike watt + the jom & terry show
w/ PORCUPINE
at THE CABOOZE
\$17/\$20/7PM/18+

5/09 **THE JESUS AND MARY CHAIN** w/ THE COBBS at Palace Theatre
5/09 **LEWIS WATSON** at Triple Rock
5/16 **FLOGGING MOLLY** w/ DYLAN WALSH at Palace Theatre
5/20 **JMSN** w/ QUIÑ, ALCORDO at Triple Rock
5/24 **WAVVES** w/ KINO KIMINO at Triple Rock
5/26 **Ho99o9** at Triple Rock
6/02 **ZZ WARD** at Fine Line
6/04 **COM TRUISE AND CLARK** w/ ROLAND TINGS at Fine Line
6/09 **CLOUD CULT** at Northrop



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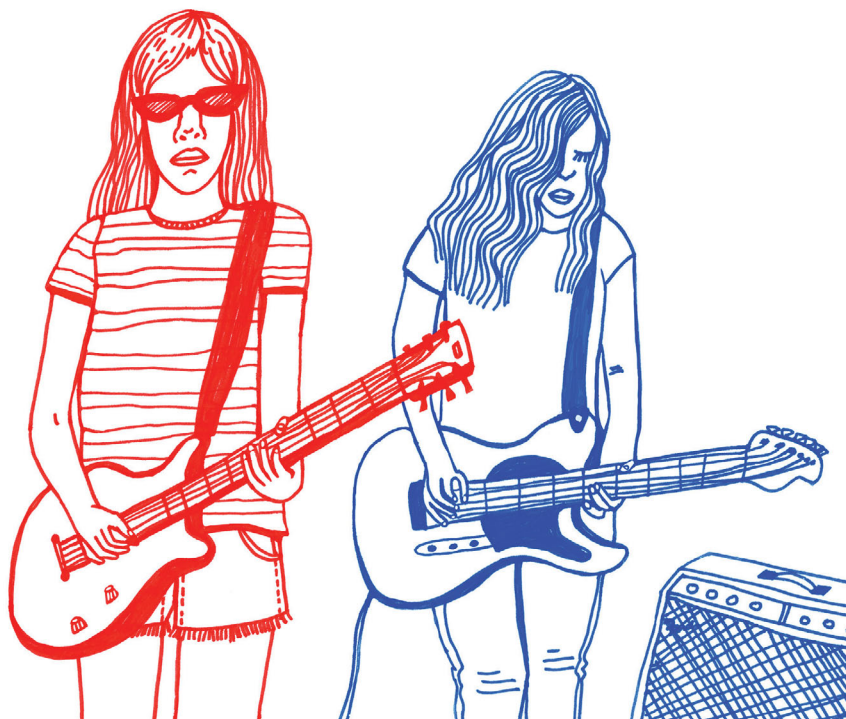


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BEST VOCALIST

Lady Midnight

ladymidnight.bandcamp.com

Lady Midnight is still in the process of making her name in the Twin Cities. But the Minneapolis singer leaves an indelible mark on every song she touches, getting listeners singing along to her memorable hooks even as they familiarize themselves with her name and story. Midnight released a tantalizingly brief three-song EP, *8:40*, at the end of May. Based on the strength of those intoxicating songs, she's since provided memorable guest turns throughout P.O.S.' new record, *Chill, Dummy*, and on a gorgeous duet from Sarah White's *Laughing at Ghosts* EP. With a spellbinding stage presence to match her soulful vocals, Lady Midnight should be ringing in the ears of Twin Cities music fans for years to come.

Readers' Choice: Dessa

BEST SONGWRITER

The Cactus Blossoms

thecactusblossoms.com

Brothers Jack Torrey and Page Burcum grew up in northeast Minneapolis, and honed their elegant country sound in the friendly confines of St. Paul's Turf Club. The venue offered the brothers an early residency, where they blossomed as both songwriters and performers, gradually becoming one of the most compelling live

acts in the Twin Cities. Their unguarded, insightful harmonies represent a stylish, modern take on legendary American pop standards made popular by the Everly Brothers and the Carpenters, with a tender nod to the early folk sound of fellow Minnesotan Bob Dylan. On their stellar 2016 album, *You're Dreaming*, the duo refined that distinctive sound with the help of producer JD McPherson, delivering 10 striking tunes that range from wistful country ballads, poppy throwbacks, and rollicking rockabilly numbers. That record, the Cactus Blossoms' first on venerable St. Paul indie label Red House Records, highlights the group's heavenly harmonies and sizeable musical talents. Local and national audiences alike were transfixed by *Dreaming*, an LP that sounds contemporary and classic all at once.

BEST LIVE ARTIST

Lizzo

lizzomusic.com

As Lizzo's career has skyrocketed, she's rocked the biggest stages all over the world. The hip-hop powerhouse — and recent signee to Atlantic Records — brings her self-assured, body-positive raps to receptive crowds that identify with both her music and her message. Lizzo has an undeniable charisma, an electric stage presence, and a catalog full of flat-out bangers. That potent combination afforded her a series of high-profile gigs opening for Sleater-Kinney's reunion tour,

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89.3 THE CURRENT PRESENTS

SLOWDIVE

WITH JAPANESE BREAKFAST
TUESDAY, MAY 2, 2017



89.3 THE CURRENT AND CITY PAGES PRESENT

THE JESUS AND MARY CHAIN

WITH THE COBBS
TUESDAY, MAY 9, 2017



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FLOGGING MOLLY

WITH DYLAN WALSH
TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2017

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Music

prime-time festival slots throughout the world, as well as prominent hosting gigs for MTV. No matter where Lizzo's career goes, her true talents come vibrantly to life onstage, and her live performances remain a sight to behold. Whether she's getting down with her curvy back-up dancers or joining forces with her trusty DJ Sophia Eris, Lizzo knows how to work a crowd — she can even get notoriously reluctant Minnesotans dancing.

BEST STAGE STYLE

Finding Novyon

[facebook.com/FNDGNVYN](https://www.facebook.com/FNDGNVYN)

Hip-hop is full of artists whose fashion choices — whether it's Yeezy Boosts, Balmain jeans, or Ferragamo belts — have more to do with flashiness than originality. But rising Minneapolis MC Finding Novyon, City Pages' No. 6 Picked to Click finisher in 2016, is exceptional in that regard. His close affiliation with Atlanta super-producer Sonny Digital could make Novyon wanna fit in with lavish rhymers like Future and 21 Savage. Instead, he gets the job done by being both creative and simplistic, wearing colorful dad hats, jean jackets, and graphic tees, with a penchant for unpretentious brands like Levi's and Puma. Novy's secret? He simply rocks the fuck out of whatever he's wearing, a confidence that Novyon brought out to California, up to Seattle and Canada, and back to the Upper Midwest while on tour with fellow Twin Cities representatives Prof and Metasota earlier this year.

BEST ALBUM

Wordless Wonder by Real Numbers

real-numbers.bandcamp.com/album/wordless-wonder

The full-length debut from Minneapolis mod-pop quartet Real Numbers is filled with 10 breezy, catchy tunes that build on the promise suggested by the group's previous EPs. *Wordless Wonder* taps into the buoyant effervescence of '90s Britpop delivered with a decidedly modern flourish, as the group fluidly blends indie rock's vibrant past with a contemporary swagger. Real Numbers boast pedigrees from a wide array of prestigious local bands — including Howler, Nice Purse, Private Interests, Cozy, and France Camp — and crystallize the raucous garage-rock sounds of those outfits into spirited new songs. The dynamic harmonies of *Wordless Wonder* recall '60s psychedelic surf-rock, while the fully introspective lyrics reflect

the mundane frustrations of modern-day living.

Readers' Choice: Coconut Oil by Lizzo

BEST ALBUM COVER

Bend Your Bones by Fraea

fraea.com

Bend Your Bones, the six-song debut EP by Minneapolis' self-described "shadow pop" duo Fraea, arrived with striking, colorful, and ambiguous artwork. The visuals look like a bunch of billowy, pinkish blobs, like the flowing innards of a lava lamp — but maybe that's just us. "People could see whatever they wanted to," Fraea beatmaker Drew Preiner told City Pages of the album cover. "It was up to the listener's interpretation." Whatever your interpretation, it works as an eye-catching representation of the music: The EP is heavily electronic, yet the record always feels more fluid than mechanical thanks to the winning combination of Jessie Daley's floating vocals (reminiscent of Purity Ring's Megan James) and Preiner's cascading production.

BEST HIP-HOP VERSE

Finding Novyon on "Cups" by Sean Anonymous & DJ Name

soundcloud.com/seananonymous/cups-feat-finding-novyon

Finding Novyon is having fun. The gregarious Minneapolis rapper has been crowned the next King of Twin Cities Hip-Hop not for continuing Minnesota's tradition of backpack rap, but for lifting it out of the earnest — and, frankly, boring — doldrums. Dyed-in-the-wool storyteller MC Sean Anonymous recognizes the culture is changing, so on his buoyant EP *2:44 a.m.*, he enlisted Novy to bring as much levity to his party anthem as possible. On "Cups," Novyon cranks out punchline after punchline, namedropping Pokémon Hitmonlee and WWE legend Mick Foley in one mind-bending act of creativity. Try not to crack a smile when listening to Novy run through his turn over DJ Name's buzzy party-rap beat.

BEST SINGLE

"Kismet Kill" by Haley

haleybonar.com

The artist formerly known as Haley Bonar is one of the best songwriters and musicians in Minnesota. Her creative output has only gotten better over the years,

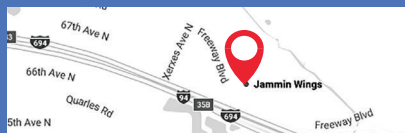


APRIL SHOWS

- 4/22 ARENA
- 4/23 TWO HICKS & A CHICK
- 4/24 GAVIN ODEAN
- 4/29 STEELE RIVER BAND
- 4/30 MATT & LAUREL

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APRIL 23 | 8:00 PM — SONGS 25-50

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Music

and with 2016's *Impossible Dream*, the recently mononym'ed Haley crafted her most assured, refined album to date. The churning, guitar-fueled "Kismet Kill" is a clear standout, a song that dismisses the negligent naiveté of youth while simultaneously paying affectionate tribute to those carefree days. "I was impossible when I was beautiful / And now cartoon death just don't seem so funny," Haley sings wistfully during the soaring chorus, lamenting the mistakes we make when we're young, but noting how those lapses in judgment look better under the auspices of adolescence. The brilliant song ultimately suggests that our fate is never truly sealed — as long as we're willing to grow.

BEST COVER SONG

"Congratulations" by Dessa
doomtree.net/dessa

This one's a no-brainer considering that the album on which it appears — the Lin-Manuel Miranda-curated *Hamilton Mixtape* — debuted at No. 1 on the Billboard charts last fall. Ubiquitous Twin Cities music dynamo Dessa makes the most of her contribution, "Congratulations," a popular trunk song from colossal Broadway musical *Hamilton*. "When I got the call about the mixtape, I hung up, did a happy dance, then called [Twin Cities musicians] Andy Thompson and Lazerbeak to see if they could help me pull it off," Dessa told City Pages of her involvement with the 23-track mixtape featuring Usher, Nas, Alicia Keys, Sia, and many others tackling *Hamilton* songs. "Congratulations" is a fiery number from the character of Angelica Schuyler, sister-in-law to Founding Father and titular character Alexander Hamilton. Combining urgently swelling strings with Dessa's surefire charisma and emotional finesse, the song is a triumph. Miranda is presumably pleased with the results, having tweeted "All hail Dessa and her incredible band!"

BEST EARWORM

"Phone" by Lizzo
lizzomusic.com

"Where the hell my phone? / Where the hell my phone? / Where the hell my, where the hell my phone? / Huh, how I'm supposed to get home?" So asks world-conquering, Minnesota-launched musician Lizzo over and over again on "Phone," single No. 2 from her major-label debut, *Coconut Oil*. Over thumping, minimalist bass, we hear the real-life Melissa Jefferson urgently rapping about a totes #relatable millennial conundrum: losing one's phone!

Throw in a sexy chorus, and by God we've got ourselves an ear-wormy track of the highest order. Lizzo's monotone question/chorus will be lodged in your head for days, whether or not you care where her phone is. FWIW: In a City Pages 'sclusie, Lizzo revealed she lost her phone at Market Bar-B-Que in Minneapolis. Sweet, tangy closure!

BEST EP

Nite Time by Ness Nite
nessnite.bandcamp.com

Ness Nite's debut EP, *Nite Time*, fluidly blends hypnotic electro-pop grooves with a hip-hop edge. The six-track collection represents the bold artistic vision of Nite, who self-produced the EP to create fresh beats for her luxurious vocals. Nite's mesmerizing sound seems poised for wider audiences, as she recently moved from Minneapolis to New York City, where she's planning on putting out a batch of new tunes with producer/engineer Mike Frey. With the breakout single from *Nite Time*, "Yes," Nite helped put vocalist Nick Jordan on the radar of local music fans, long before he won the Star Tribune's Are You Local? contest in February. Nite — who claimed the No. 5 spot on last year's Picked to Click tally — showcases her boundless talents throughout the ethereal EP. Even though she's moved to the brighter lights of NYC, the songs on her debut will always sound rooted in Minneapolis.

BEST MUSIC COMPILATION

Sound Verite Records/IX Vol. 1 2016
soundveriterecords.com

The 16-track *Sound Verite Records/IX Vol. 1 2016* arrived promising that it "takes a glance into what's happening in Minneapolis hip-hop, electronica, soul, and experimental music." That might sound disjointed, or even overly eclectic, but the compilation is remarkable for one main reason: If you like one song, there's a good chance you'll dig the other 15. There's Sound Verite Records' own ZULUZULUU and the otherworldly funk of their excellent "Fades," plus songs from ZULUZULUU members Greg Grease and MMYKK. Besides Grease, there are other gifted, whip-smart rappers, ranging from veterans like I Self Devine and Muja Messiah to fresher faces like Metasota and the Lioness. You also get rising youngsters, including inventive hip-hop duo Nazeem & Spencer Joles ("Fade into the Lush") and St. Paul R&B phenom Dizzy Fae (who sings on producer Su Na's SoundCloud

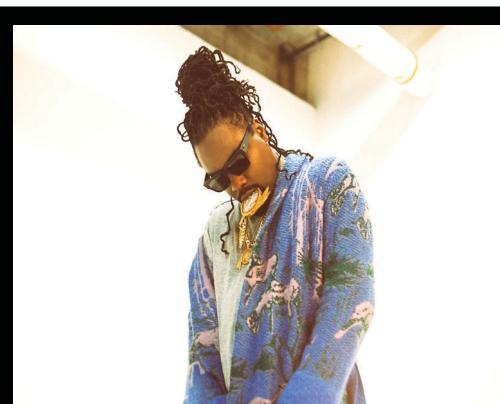
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Music



smash “Complexion”). There’s a forward-thinking, socially conscious air about the entire compilation, starting with I Self Devine and Muja Messiah’s rousing Black Lives Matter anthem “We Ain’t Scared,” featuring Lady Midnight.

BEST RECORD LABEL

Doomtree Records

doomtree.net

Besides Rhymesayers, Doomtree is Minnesota’s most famed record label, and it’s been firing on all cylinders lately. Doomtree’s most wide-reaching achievement of 2016 was the inclusion of Dessa — the crew’s lone female member and one of the most admired women in hip-hop, period — on *The Hamilton Mixtape*. But since the huge-selling mixtape was released by Atlantic, that was a W for Doomtree as a collective, not as a label. As for releases to actually come out on Doomtree Records, the big two came from Sims and P.O.S: The former released his earthshaking, Run the Jewels-esque magnum opus, *More Than Ever*, back in November, while the latter returned this January with the punk-rap assault *Chill, Dummy*, a triumphant comeback from his 2014 kidney transplant. In-house producer Paper Tiger contributed heavily to *More Than Ever*, while fellow beatmaker Lazerbeak executive produced both albums. The list of additional releases goes on — Cecil Otter’s three-song *Dear Echo* EP, Dessa’s single “Quinine,” etc. — but you get the picture: Doomtree’s still making major noise.

Readers’ Choice: Doomtree Records

BEST SONG TO CRY TO

“Someday We’ll Linger in the Sun” by Gaelynn Lea

gaelynnlea.bandcamp.com/track/someday-well-linger-in-the-sun

Anyone who has watched Gaelynn Lea’s NPR performance of her 2016 Tiny Desk Concert-winning song, “Someday We’ll Linger in the Sun,” won’t forget it anytime soon. The pure, unguarded emotions expressed by the Duluth singer-songwriter speak right to the heart of listeners longing for a brighter day, those seeking a companion during life’s perilous moments. “Don’t tell me we’ve got time / The subtle thief of life / It slips away when we pay no mind,” Lea sings during the song’s moving apogee. It serves as a warning to make the most of each day, because life is fleeting and tomorrow is never promised to anyone. There’s a funereal grace to Lea’s Irish-folk sound, as her tremulous vocals carry the fractured weight of the song’s eloquent poignancy. It’s beautiful, heartbreaking, and hopeful all at once, and it will leave you drying your eyes once it’s done.

BEST SONG TO HAVE SEX TO

“Full Court Press” by Tickle Torture feat. Velvet Negroni

tickletorture.biz

The day Prince died, the Onion, in typical Onion fashion, nailed it with this headline: “Nation Too Sad To Fuck Even Though It’s What Prince Would Have Wanted.”



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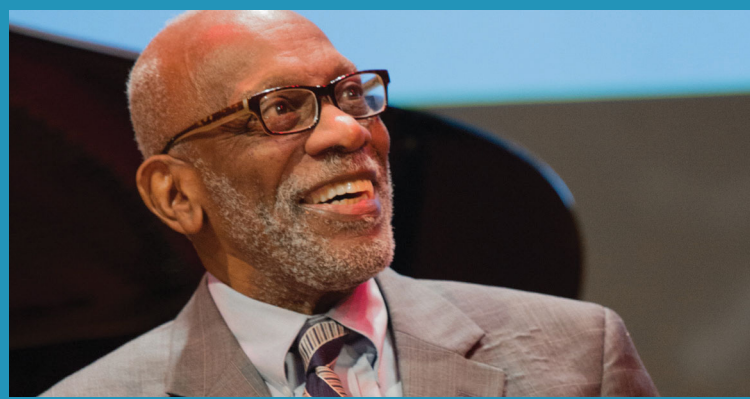
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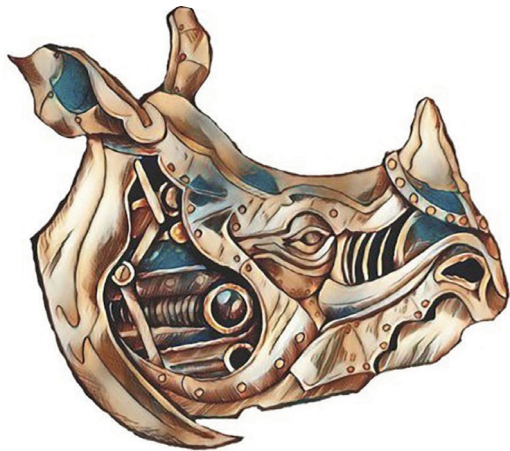
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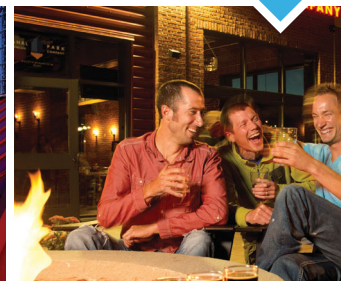
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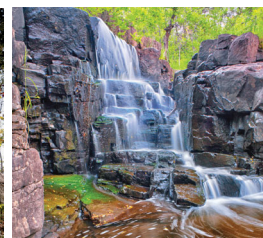
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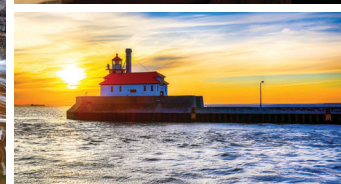
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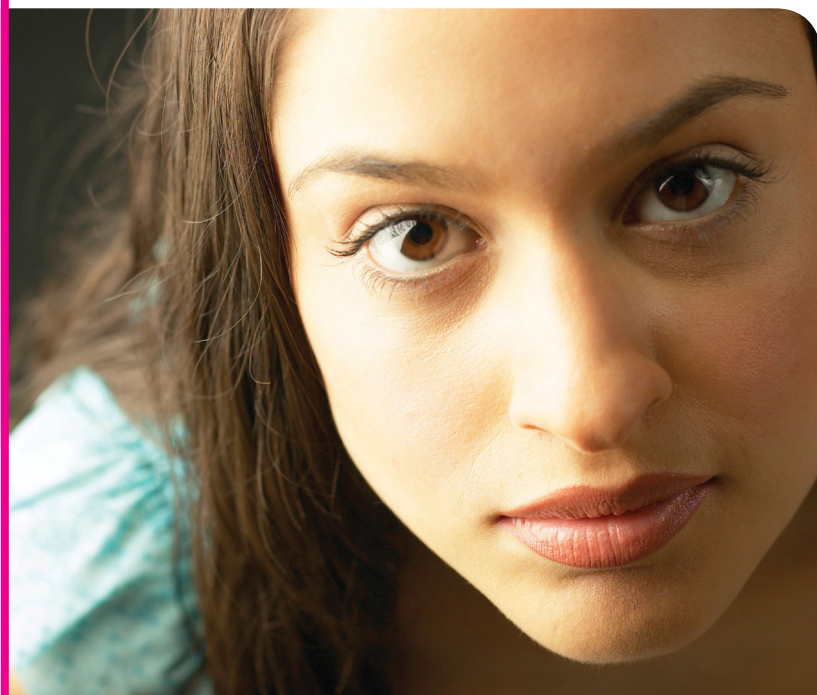
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Music

Keen to that sentiment is Elliott Kozel, the L.A.-via-Twin Cities sex-funk mastermind behind Tickle Torture. Speaking to *Vice* last year, Kozel described his one-off single “Full Court Press” as “a love letter to the city of Minneapolis and the infinite inspiration left on this planet by Prince Rogers Nelson.” With Velvet Negroni (aka Jeremy Nutzman of Pony Bwoy/Marijuana Deathsquads fame) handling the silky falsetto lead, the synth-y track throbs, shimmers, and eventually climaxes into a fountain of shredding guitars. Somewhere — and let’s be real: at a sweet-ass angel orgy — the man behind “Jack U Off” and “Erotic City” is smiling.

BEST ROCK BAND

Hippo Campus

hippocampusband.com

It typically takes time for an emerging band to sell out First Avenue’s Mainroom. Hippo Campus, on the other hand, sold out a two-night stand at the beloved Minneapolis club before their debut album was even released. The quartet originally formed as teenagers in Woodbury, and quickly captured the attention of local and national tastemakers on the strength of two EPs — 2015’s *Bashful Creatures* and *South* — and a vibrant, remarkably polished live show. On their 2017 debut LP, *Landmark*, the group builds on that promise, while adding a textured, more refined sound to the mix. *Landmark* was produced by BJ Burton (Bon Iver, Lizzo, James Blake), who helped the young band take an anything-goes approach in the studio, leading to surprising sonic flourishes that add an element of adventurousness to their jaunty, infectious sound. The 13-track collection is the best, most complete work of their already successful career. Expect plenty more sold-out First Ave shows in the future.

BEST METAL BAND

Sunless

sunlessband.bandcamp.com

Sunless released their debut album, *Urraca*, in February, but their sludgy, dissonant sound has been steamrolling local music fans for a while now. The Minneapolis death-metal quartet’s thunderous live shows and filthy riffs have attracted the attention of metalheads everywhere, as evidenced by a successful U.S. tour with fellow locals Grogus. The pummeling drums of Ben Iburg form the unrelenting core to Sunless’ volatile, menacing sound, while guitarist/vocal-

ist Lucas Scott brings a venomous twist. Sunless always manage to stay tight and focused, even when their sound borders on untethered dissonance — a testament to the group’s technical proficiency. *Urraca* stands as one of the best metal releases from the Twin Cities in recent memory, and Sunless find themselves leading a new generation of metal that’s shaking Minnesota — and the rest of the country — to its core.

BEST R&B ARTIST

Ness Nite

nessnite.com

After quickly making her mark on the Minneapolis music scene, 21-year-old singer/rapper/producer Ness Nite left for New York City in March, with a Los Angeles move planned for later this year. The artist born Vanessa Reliford proved to be a musical wunderkind while in Minnesota, finding an audience and acclaim before she so much as released her debut EP. She deftly balances genres, crafting a forward-thinking yet intimate take on R&B that brings to mind contemporaries like FKA Twigs, SZA, and Kelela. After those early accolades and achievements, including her spot as a finalist in the Star Tribune’s 2016 Are You Local? contest, Ness released her debut EP last summer to immediate raves; among *Nite Time*’s highlights is closing song “Yes,” a collaboration with City Pages’ Best R&B Singer of 2016, Nick Jordan. Recently signed to the fledgling Los Angeles label POW Recordings, Ness is riding an unstoppable wave of momentum.

Readers’ Choice: Lizzo

BEST HIP-HOP ARTIST

P.O.S

doomtree.net/pos

P.O.S made a triumphant, innovative return to the hip-hop scene in 2017 with *Chill, Dummy*, his first solo album since his 2014 kidney transplant. The Doomtree co-founder took his time with the record, and the resulting collection is among the best of his impressive career. The beats are experimental and inventive, lending urgency to P.O.S’ potent rhymes. The LP is rounded out by a wide array of guests — including Kathleen Hanna, Lizzo, Busdriver, Allan Kingdom, and current Best Vocalist Lady Midnight — all of whom add distinctive flair to the fiery tracks. The punk-rock ethos of P.O.S’ early work with Building Better Bombs courses through his style of hip-hop; he injects his beats with an incisive edge and his rhymes



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boldly express an abrasive world view. But throughout his discography, there's a guarded sense of optimism, the belief that there's a better way forward. On *Chill, Dummy*, there's also an underlying expression of gratitude to all those who helped him get back to rocking microphones and tearing up stages.

Readers' Choice: Lizzo

BEST CLUB DJ

DJ Keezy

soundcloud.com/djeezy612

When you orchestrate the best new party in the Twin Cities, you get named Best Club DJ — it's that simple. And that's exactly what DJ Keezy has done with the Klituation. With the help of Sophia Eris, BdotCroc, and Maria Isa, the all-woman dance night dominated First Avenue's Mainroom three times in the past year, providing an unparalleled platform for ladies in the Twin Cities hip-hop/R&B scenes. Born Akeena Bronson in north Minneapolis, the 26-year-old Keezy sparks the party with sets that favor nostalgic '90s jams, Motown classics, and, of course, Prince. Her 31-minute mix for Pride 2016 — featuring TLC, Ginuwine, Destiny's Child, and many others — flows as smoothly as any Girl Talk mashup. Keezy recently spent 10 days spinning with BdotCroc at South by Southwest in Austin, Texas, and she's

set to man the decks at the 10th annual Soundset rap mega-festival in May.

Readers' Choice: DJ Shannon Blowtorch

BEST JAZZ ARTIST

Zacc Harris

zaccharris.com

In the 12 years since he first moved to Minnesota from southern Illinois, this remarkably fluid guitarist has positioned himself at the center of the Twin Cities jazz world. If your venue has a stage where jazz musicians gather, Harris has performed his fleet-fingered thing there. Whether playing alongside the McKnight-winning Atlantis Quartet or fronting his own Zacc Harris Group, Harris makes his mark, incorporating lessons from the greats (including Wes Montgomery, Pat Metheny, and John McLaughlin) into his own forward-looking style. Most recently, he's branched out even further to assay jazz interpretations of classic folk and pop with his American Reverie project.

BEST HIP-HOP PRODUCER

Travis Gorman

soundcloud.com/travis-jerome-gorman

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Music

talented rappers, is a tall order. But beat-smith Travis Gorman is up to the task, pacing each MC aboard his sample-driven beats. A clear throwback to Blockhead and early Def Jux production, Gorman chops up records into quirky boom-bap beats. Though his best work is found on wax and onstage alongside his Rotation crew — see “This Year” by Dwyne Roland and “Pre-Heat” by Finding Novyon — Gorman’s partnerships with Rich Garvey and GainesFM demonstrate the versatility of his cuts. When you see the parenthetical “Prod. by Travis Gorman” on a SoundCloud track, you can trust it’s gonna be a quality song.

BEST BAND TO BREAK UP

Frankie Teardrop

sodapopfrankie.bandcamp.com

Three years ago, Frankie Teardrop was named City Pages’ Best New Band. At first, the act was a persona-driven vehicle for singer-songwriter Jordan Bleau, who put together FT’s first record, *Tough Guy*, entirely by himself. Frankie T. would soon become a full band, and with fuzzy and infectious garage-punk, they proceeded to create some of the most exciting rock in the Twin Cities. They were essentially a Minnesota answer to fiery West Coast garage-rockers like Ty Segall and Thee Oh Sees, remaining prolific through last year’s *Hell Yep* LP. Unfortunately, it would be Frankie’s swan song. “This is as far as this band needs to go and this album is what this band should sound like,” their breakup announcement on Facebook read. Bleau quickly launched a new solo project, Cheap Fantasy, and joined Minneapolis band Wild Firth. He briefly resurrected Frankie Teardrop to drop a new song on Bandcamp, coinciding with the site’s pledge to donate all February 3 proceeds to the ACLU.

BEST ACOUSTIC PERFORMER

Sam Cassidy

samcassidy.bandcamp.com

Sam Cassidy routinely plugs in with his rollicking rock band, Red Daughters, but an acoustic heart beats within most of his Americana-drenched numbers. The talented singer-songwriter (and proud cabinetmaker) is planning a new full-length to follow up his brilliant 2014 album, *Debts*. Based on his spirited live shows, the new LP should be filled with more gems that showcase his ear for melody and uncanny ability to capture raw emotions. Cassidy does still play occasional solo shows, and it’s during those riveting performances that his acoustic

nature shines through, with stirring vocals and deft guitar work. No matter what style or sound Cassidy plays, his songs reach your heart as well as your mind, leaving listeners moved and wanting more.

BEST BAND NAME

Lazy Scorsese

lazyscorsese.bandcamp.com

In *Donnie Darko*, Drew Barrymore’s character said that, out of all the possible phrases in the English language, “cellar door” was the most beautiful. Well, that former child star never got her hands on *Grigio*, the debut record by the mellifluously named Minneapolis band Lazy Scorsese. Sibilant and hilarious, the moniker appears half classical French and half Brooklyn cab-speak. It sounds like Marty at the helm of a *Meet the Parents* sequel or the nickname you’d give to a bespectacled janitor at the Seward Co-op. The mental conjurings are endless, but the reality is that these local space cadets have stumbled upon a perfect flag under which to sail their amorphous, far-out psych rock. Barrymore be damned.

BEST NEW BAND

Poolboy

poolboyband.com

Minneapolis indie-rock quintet Poolboy’s sound has a simmering, slow-burning charm. The five elegantly refined tracks that comprise the group’s self-titled EP showcase singer Seth Conover’s self-deprecating personal observations (including the long-term effects of exposure to pornography), which are complemented by textured, blossoming arrangements. Poolboy honed their adventurous psych-rock sound by gigging around town with a wide array of young bands who inspire one another. As a result, the shows have gotten tighter since their record-release party in 2016. The occasional new songs that pop up during Poolboy’s live sets hint that a new release is imminent, and hopefully the group can build on the promise suggested by their captivating and inventive debut.

Readers’ Choice: Hippo Campus

BEST REUNION

Happy Apple

happyapplemusic.com

Twin Cities trio Happy Apple helped bring jazz music to indie kids back in the early ’90s. Their experimental approach and comical song titles (“Hence the Turtle-neck,” “The Express Lane Really Isn’t All That Fast”) removed the air of pretension



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that's often associated with jazz music. Plus, they delivered live sets that blew you away no matter what type of music you loved. It was no surprise to see the members blossom with other groups — drummer Dave King with the Bad Plus, saxophonist Mike Lewis with Bon Iver and Andrew Bird, and bassist Erik Fratzke with Zebulon Pike. But their individual successes made seeing Happy Apple a rare occurrence. Thankfully, the band occasionally reunites at Icehouse in Minneapolis, and they still gel onstage. King's slapstick comedy from behind the kit loosens up the crowd, while the crew's exploratory tunes showcase bold innovation and deft musicality. Happy Apple's recorded work stands as a testament to the underground jazz scene in the Twin Cities, and they still floor audiences whenever the band gets back together.

BEST MUSIC CONTROVERSY

Pro-consent reimagining of "Baby, It's Cold Outside" goes viral

facebook.com/lydializamusic

Ever realize how rape-y "Baby, It's Cold Outside" sounds? Twentysomething Twin Cities singer-songwriters Lydia Liza and Josiah Lemanski did, so they went ahead and reimagined the Christmas classic with a pro-consent spin. "You never figure out if she gets to go home," Liza told CNN of the character from the 1944 holiday standard. "You never figure out if there was something in her drink. It just leaves you with a bad taste in your mouth." Solution: She rewrote lines like "I oughtta say no, no, no sir (You mind if I move in closer)" into ones like "I ought to say no, no, no (you reserve the right to say no)." The track went crazy viral, with outlets like NPR, Huffington Post, and TIME writing it up, though the "less sexually aggressive" remix spurred some backlash. "This is the musical version of going into an art museum and spray painting all the nudes," reads one YouTube comment, while other online detractors promoted a more innocent reading of the original. So much for peace, love, and joy.

BEST MUSICAL ACT OF PROTEST

Kitten Forever donate music sales to fight Trump
kittenforeverforever.com

The members of Kitten Forever were not smitten with the election of Donald

"Grab 'Em by the Pussy" Trump. They feel so strongly, in fact, that the feminist punk rockers donated all of their music sales from Black Friday through Inauguration Day to combat what they view as Trump's "sexism, racism, homophobia, Islamophobia, transphobia, ableism, nationalism, and greed." The funds were gifted to Reclaim!, a St. Paul nonprofit that provides mental health services to queer and trans youth. Any buyers of *7 Hearts*, the scorching blitz of a 2016 album from Kitten Forever, should find themselves sufficiently rallied. And that's exactly the point, as the Minneapolis band's Facebook post announcing the politically charged sale concluded: "Fight back, bite back."

BEST SELLING OUT

Hamburger Helper's *Watch the Stove* mixtape

soundcloud.com/hamburgerhelper

Minnesotans were all over *Watch the Stove*, the viral mixtape from meat palatization brand Hamburger Helper. Buzzy locals Bobby Raps and DJ Tiiiiiiiiip cooked up track "Feed the Streets," on which we hear Raps spit bars about simmering stroganoff and salty haters; it's since notched more than 8 million plays on SoundCloud. Twin Cities photographer Wale Deen Agboola captured the *Watch the Throne*-alluding cover art, while students at St. Paul's McNally Smith College of Music contributed to the songs alongside hip-hop instructor Toki Wright. Exposure wasn't the only payoff, either. "Honestly, we got a shit-load of Hamburger Helper," Tiiiiiiiiip told City Pages. Synergy! *Watch the Stove* was conceived/bankrolled by Minneapolis-based edibles giant General Mills, whose Betty Crocker imprint is responsible for Hamburger Helper and now, it seems, a processed-food rap movement.

BEST MUSIC VIDEO DIRECTOR

Mercies May

strangeanddistantpictures.com

Mercies May spent years as the go-to visionary for a handful of smaller acts like Literati and Christopher David Hanson Band. But that doesn't mean the Strange and Distant Pictures director/photographer wasn't doing some of the best, edgiest behind-the-lens work in the Twin Cities. Just watch Ecid's "Breaking Up with Death" to see how he brings effusive humor to the screen, complementing the rapper's verses perfectly. Focusing

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Music

mainly on narratives, May creates small, temporal worlds that only exist within the runtime of the song, making the video a truly unique and distinct piece of art. Though his big break came early this year when he helmed P.O.S.' video for "Lanes," his work on Literati's "Swan Song" was perhaps the most disciplined video work to come out of Minnesota in 2016 — a master stroke from a director who is only just now making his skills apparent to the scene at large.

BEST MUSIC VIDEO

"It's Good to Be Alive"

by Mark Mallman

markmallman.com

The madness of Mark Mallman has long festered into acts of creative absurdity, such as using a robot to rock Icehouse from 6.4 miles away, or hacking brainwave monitors to compose music in his sleep. The Marathon Man has revolutionized how he delivers his music over and over again. Framed in this context, shooting a music video entirely via Snapchat doesn't seem so ambitious. But when you watch the fastidiously emoji-ed video for "It's Good to Be Alive," it's hard not to be awed by Mallman's latest bout of ingenuity. Whether he's face-swapping with statues at Mia or knocking back whiskey with his pink-shirted digital girlfriend, Mallman immerses himself in the low-tech app to create a world that's familiar while still being as wacky as conceivable. Watch first for the yuks but replay to marvel at how much finger work must've gone into the animation.

BEST MUSIC TV SHOW

The Lowertown Line

lowertownline.org

As President Donald Trump prepares to gut federal arts/cultural funding, let's remember the amazing things such funds can produce. Take *The Lowertown Line*, for example. Minnesota's answer to *Austin City Limits*, the TPT program highlights live performances from standout Twin Cities music acts, including indie-folkers Communist Daughter, grunge-punks Bruise Violet, rap favorite P.O.S., and many more in 2016. Launched in 2012, *Lowertown Line* wears this Best Of crown, in part, due to its being the only major music TV show in town. But the smartly booked, expertly produced, free-to-attend series deserves praise, as does the Legacy Amendment, the 2008 voter-approved measure that helps makes it possible. Here's hoping *Lowertown*

Line keeps chugging along for decades to come.

BEST MUSIC FESTIVAL

Eaux Claires

3443 Crescent Ave.

Eau Claire, Wisconsin

eauxclaires.com

The picturesque location has as much, if not more, to do with the success of Eaux Claires as the music does. Getting out of the city and into the secluded woods on the banks of Wisconsin's Chippewa River is restorative and relaxing, and the performances reflect that same serene, tranquil vibe. In 2016, the festival co-curated/founded by Bon Iver's Justin Vernon and the National's Aaron Dessner struck a fine balance between rock (Deafheaven, Melvins, and Bon Iver debuting their new album, *22, A Million*), rap (Vince Staples, Shabazz Palaces), electro-pop (James Blake, Beach House), and industry legends (Erykah Badu, Mavis Staples). The second-annual fest also boasted striking artwork, tasty food trucks, and local vendors, plus random, unduplicatable pop-up performances. The Wilco-centric lineup for 2017 further proves Eaux Claires is hitting its creative stride.

Readers' Choice: Basilica Block Party

BEST CONCERT (LOCAL)

Communist Daughter
record-release show at
First Avenue (Nov. 11, 2016)

When a band puts as much time and effort into an album as Communist Daughter did with *The Cracks That Built the Wall*, you know they're gonna go all out to celebrate it. And that's precisely what Communist Daughter did at First Avenue last November, assembling a diverse set of supporting acts (Alpha Consumer, Fraeja, Catbath) to help deliver a spirited night of music to the packed hometown club. It had been six years since the release of ComDot's debut full-length, *Soundtrack to the End*, and a lot of things had changed — for the better — in the life of frontman Johnny Solomon. He put the destructive ghosts of addiction behind him on the assured and insightful new batch of songs, which absolutely soared in the live setting. Communist Daughter triumphed over the trappings of their past to not only release the best album of their career, but also deliver a rousing, memorable show to celebrate the journey.

Readers' Choice: The Official Prince Tribute Concert at Xcel Energy Center

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BEST CONCERT (TOURING)

Kanye West at Xcel Energy Center (Oct. 10, 2016)

Kanye West is one of the only artists alive who can captivate an entire arena — even when no one can see him. Throughout his mesmerizing, passionate performance during the Saint Pablo Tour stop in St. Paul (his first Twin Cities visit in eight years), West floated above the crowd on a moving platform accented by blood-red lighting that left him mostly in the shadows. But Kanye's dynamic material and outsized persona enlivened the wild general admission floor as well as the packed stands, even if we only caught indistinct glimpses of him. The elevated stage played up Kanye's God complex, bringing him closer to heaven while his adoring crowd worshiped from below. The moving stage redefined the parameters on what an arena show could look like; it transported Kanye to all corners of the X, getting the entire crowd hyped by the spectacle. The slew of cancellations before and after the performance made it that much more special, though any Kanye appearance is going to be memorable.

Readers' Choice: Adele at Xcel Energy

BEST CONCERT VENUE

Palace Theatre

17 W. Seventh Place
St. Paul
612-338-8388

palacestpaul.com

The \$15.6 million renovation of St. Paul's long-dormant, 101-year-old Palace Theatre fills a crucial need in the Twin Cities music scene. The 2,800-capacity Palace provides a stylish general admission venue that fits in comfortably between the venerable State and Orpheum theaters in Minneapolis, and the outdated gymnasium that is the nearby Roy Wilkins Auditorium. Operated by First Avenue, the Palace burst out of the gates with a stellar string of top-quality bookings. Opening weekend in March saw a trio of high profile, sold-out shows from Atmosphere, Phantogram, and the Jayhawks. Regina Spektor and a two-night run from the String Cheese Incident kept the early musical momentum going. A diverse run of upcoming gigs includes names like Tycho, the xx, Slowdive, At the Drive In, Jason Isbell, Ryan Adams, Bryan Ferry, and the Pixies. The Palace's sightlines, sound, and spaces are all impeccable, managing to make even larger shows feel intimate. So far, it looks like one of the best — and most essential — live

music venue additions to the Twin Cities in years.

Readers' Choice:

First Avenue/7th St. Entry

BEST VENUE TO OPEN

The Warming House

4001 Bryant Ave. S.
Minneapolis
612-824-4906

thewarminghouse.net

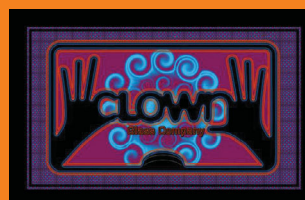
The Warming House is a place for true music lovers. The intimate south Minneapolis listening room opened in May, with founders Brianna Lane, John Louis, and Greg Neis creating a GoFundMe campaign to help launch the nonprofit venue. The 50-person basement club shares space with Farmstead Bike Shop (owned by Neis), which adds to the communal, relaxed vibe of the room. The Warming House predominantly features acoustic performances by local and national singer-songwriters, though it also nurtures emerging performers with workshops and open mic nights. There's no beer/wine license, so younger fans can enjoy performances without noise and distractions. No matter who's playing the Warming House, you'll likely come away impressed by the cozy, welcoming new space that puts the focus squarely on the music itself — where it truly belongs.

BEST VENUE TO CLOSE

Mill City Nights

111 N. Fifth St.
Minneapolis

Mill City Nights appeared doomed from opening night. In 2012, the downtown Minneapolis venue then known as the Brick debuted with a logistically disastrous Jane's Addiction show. Things eventually got better for the property owned by global entertainment giant AEG, though. The remodeled and rebranded space reopened four months later as Mill City Nights, a name that couldn't help but feel pandering given its L.A.-based parent company. But with a capacity around 1,200, the underrated concert hall fit neatly between nearby clubs First Avenue (1,600) and Fine Line Music Cafe (769), carving out a niche catering to mid-level metal, pop-punk, and rap acts. "We've spent the last year trying to build it up, and I think we've made some great strides at turning this place around, so we're very sad to call it quits," general manager Chris Olson told City Pages, blaming the closure on finances. Something called Music Hall Minneapolis is supposedly taking MCN's place, though its rollout has been head-scratching.



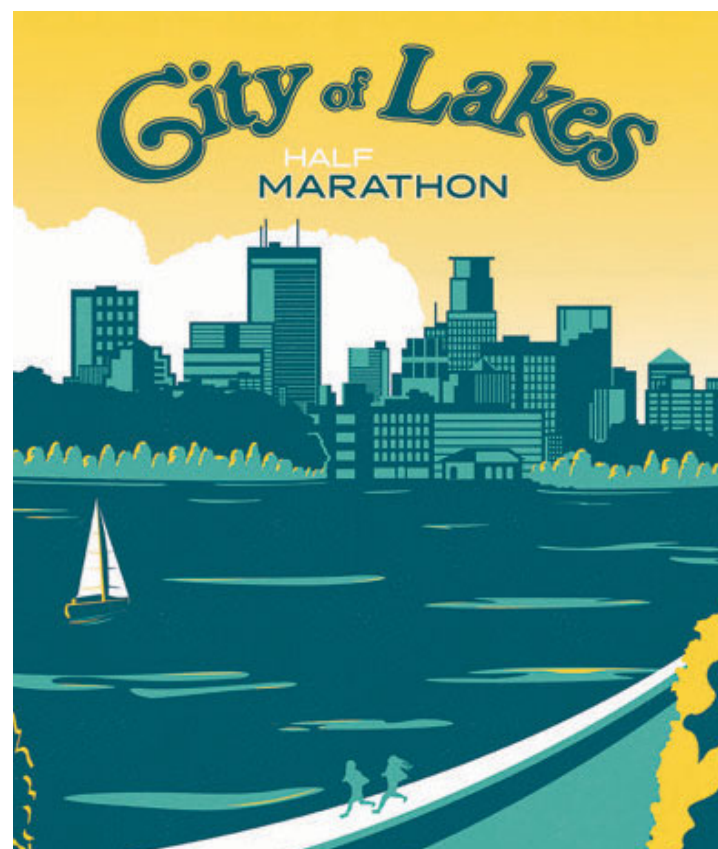
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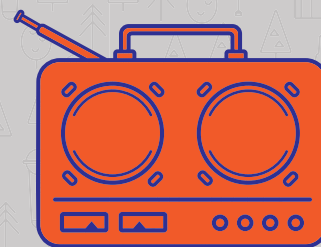
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BEST JAZZ CLUB

Dakota Jazz Club

1010 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis
612-332-1010

dakotacooks.com

Where you choose to see live jazz in the Twin Cities depends on your mood: Is this a night for avant-garde experimentation at Eat Street's Icehouse or a more traditional flavor of improvisation at St. Paul's Vieux Carre? But if you're checking out the biggest touring names in jazz, you're almost certainly at the Dakota. In the past year, bassist Marcus Miller, pianist Kenny Barron, and Chick Corea's new trio (with Christian McBride and Brian Blade) all performed at the Nicollet Mall institution, a venue so notably beloved by Prince that it was among the last places he was seen publicly. Over the years, the Dakota has broadened the range of styles it showcases, booking everything from folk to R&B, but its mission to support its namesake musical style has never slackened.

BEST MUSIC RESIDENCY

Andrew Broder & People: A Residency for Music and Action at the Turf Club

Andrew Broder is one of the most talented musicians in the Twin Cities, and his list of musical friends is equally as impressive. So when he announced a weekly residency at St. Paul's Turf Club in January, fans took notice. In addition

to a stellar roster of artists — including Low's Alan Sparhawk, Poliça's Channy Leaneagh, Har Mar Superstar, Kill the Vultures, Greg Grease, the Cloak Ox, and the hilariously named Broderjuana Death-squads — the shows featured special, one-night-only collaborations and a rare Fog performance. The best part? Each night benefited a different local charity, with proceeds supporting the Confederation for Somali Community of MN, Climate Generation, Planned Parenthood, and Neighborhoods Organizing for Change. It was good music for an even greater cause, and it gave music lovers much-needed hope in the bleak winter months.

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The Garage

75 Civic Center Pkwy.
Burnsville
952-895-4664

thegaragemn.com

Curveball! Rather than pick a tot-centric event like Rock the Cradle, we're gonna lean a little older and go with the Garage, Burnsville's all-ages rock club. The 550-capacity space was operated by the city for more than a decade, but nonprofit Twin Cities Catalyst Music assumed control in 2015 with ambitious plans. Today, the freshly remodeled Garage is a recording studio, practice space, music magazine, and workshop destination. Whether watching your own kid score their first stage time or

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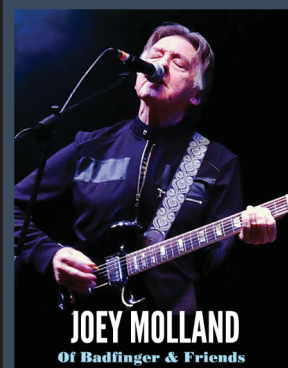
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Music



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BEST KARAOKE

The Infernal Singalong Machine at Grumpy's Bar & Grill

1111 Washington Ave. S.
Minneapolis
612-340-9738

infernalsingalongmachine.com

Old-timers know Joel Stitzel from *Cosmic Slop*, the obscure-music showcase he co-hosted with Chuck Tomlinson on Radio K for so many years. Stitzel has not only forgotten more songs than most of us know — he's remembered more songs than most of us have forgotten. And since 2010, he's had the karaoke songbook to prove it. He brings his Machine to Acadia Café on the West Bank every Wednesday from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m., and then down the block to Grumpy's the following night from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. Different venues, different atmosphere, with Grumpy's cozy, elongated back room giving it a slight advantage as a karaoke site.

Readers' Choice: Vegas Lounge

BEST JUKEBOX

Turf Club Clown Lounge

1601 University Ave. W.
St. Paul
651-647-0486

turfclub.net

When First Avenue bought the Turf Club in 2013, among the many concerns was that the new owners might tamper with the Turf's scruffy basement hideaway, the Clown Lounge, and irrevocably erase its charms. But the subterranean lair is

mostly intact, and, crucially, its beloved jukebox survived. In fact, after a fine-tuning from the folks down the street at Ax-Man Surplus Store, that old warhorse may be galloping along better than ever. May its selection of 45s — including jazz standards, old-school soul, and classic country — continue to offer an alternative to the bland homogeneity of internet jukebox services for years to come. Especially since scouting out a decent old-school record machine in the Twin Cities can be as challenging as finding a quality blacksmith.

Readers' Choice: Grumpy's NE

BEST RECORD STORE DAY LOCATION

Flashlight Vinyl

1519 Central Ave. NE
Minneapolis
612-558-3838

flashlightvinyl.com

Flashlight Vinyl went all out with a 36-hour party for its first Record Store Day last year. In addition to live performances from Mariah in the Mainsail and Jill and the New Gruv, Flashlight also brought in DJ Snuggles, Carnage the Executioner, DJ Marino, Travis Ramin, and Egypto Knuckles to provide a lively soundtrack to the record-buying festivities. The new shop in northeast Minneapolis discounted used vinyl by 20 percent, held giveaways, stocked RSD exclusive releases, and provided free doughnuts and coffee from Bogart's for early-rising customers. Flashlight threw a celebratory extended party for music lovers, while also boldly announcing its arrival on the Twin Cities record store scene.

Readers' Choice: Electric Fetus

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Talk of the Town

BEST SPORTS TEAM

Gophers women's hockey team

There's but one thing Minnesota is better at than any other state: producing hockey players. And there's no better emblem of our superior manufacturing than the University of Minnesota women's hockey team. Since winning their first national title in 2000 — the first by any Gophers women's team — the squad has knocked down six more, making it easily the premier program in the country. This is no small matter, given the mercurial advance in the quality of the women's game. Though the Gophers fell in the semifinals this year, their record has surpassed not only that of their male counterparts at the U, but any other team in the State of Hockey.

Readers' Choice: Minnesota Wild

BEST COACH

Brady Starkey

The Twin Cities are blessed with a coaching affluence. Lynx coach Cheryl Reeve has won three WNBA titles. Gophers women's hockey coach Brad Frost has four NCAA titles. But no one routinely traffics in excellence quite like Brady Starkey. His Concordia University women's volleyball team has taken home so many national championships — eight in the last 10 years — that the NCAA should just sign over the title on a long-term lease. Yes, Concordia plays in Division II. But Starkey's empire is woven from exquisite fabric — smart, selfless women almost entirely from Minnesota. Even more remarkable is that he's built it at an unknown school in central St. Paul, without the kind of budgets more prestigious schools use to buy championships instead of earning them.

Readers' Choice: Cheryl Reeve

BEST WILD PLAYER

Mikael Granlund

A year ago, Mikael Granlund was on the verge of plunging into that Neverland known as Great Wild Disappointments. He may have had the moves of Baryshnikov, but he was easily pushed from the puck and carried a bad case of Scandinavian Center Disease, in which no shot was too good to pass up. Enter Bruce Boudreau. The new coach not only convinced Granlund to employ his electric shot with a sniper's precision, but moved him to the wing, where his

speed and superb passing have more room to race. The result of those efforts: Granlund has become the Wild's leading scorer. He may soon become the most skilled forward Minnesota has seen since Neal Broten.

Readers' Choice: Zach Parise

BEST TIMBERWOLVES PLAYER

Karl-Anthony Towns

Since the departure of famed running back/child abuser Adrian Peterson, Minnesota is without a true superstar in men's pro sports. But within the rather empty confines of the Target Center is a superstar-in-waiting: Karl-Anthony Towns. In just his second season, Towns appears destined to become one of the best players in the NBA. In a game embodied by freaks of nature, he's among the rarest of mutants: the seven-footer who can drive, handle the ball, rebound, bomb from beyond the arc, and score inside with masculine esprit. His defense could still use some work, as might be expected from a 21-year-old. But if his development keeps pace, Towns promises to deliver the previously unthinkable: a hometown basketball team that's must-see TV.

Readers' Choice: Karl-Anthony Towns

BEST VIKINGS PLAYER

Linval Joseph

The nose tackle is a unique species in sport. He's the beast in the middle of your television screen on Sundays, looking less athlete than season ticket holder to a casino buffet. His inauspicious job is to occupy as many blockers as possible so that his teammates might roam free to glory. Yet Linval Joseph is a species unto himself. Though he weighs in at 329 pounds, he's stunningly agile for a big man. Add to this a Herculean strength — teammate Alex Boone calls him the "strongest man alive" — and he's become one of the best interior linemen in football. The evidence is in the stats: a combined 77 tackles last season in a job specifically designed not to produce fat stats. He also made his first Pro Bowl.

Readers' Choice: Harrison Smith

BEST TWINS PLAYER

Brian Dozier

Yes, picking the best Twin might be akin to choosing the best livestock rustler to take to the prom. With 103 losses last year, the Twins were not just the worst



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team in baseball; they were the worst team in franchise history. But buried beneath the rubble was a remarkable gem: Brian Dozier. With 42 homers, the second basemen brought a bombardier's swing that hasn't been seen in a Minnesota uniform since Harmon Killebrew. Unfortunately, this has placed Dozier on the trading block, where he remains the team's lone star of value who can be swapped for the promise of renewal. Enjoy him while he's still in town.

Readers' Choice: Brian Dozier

BEST LYNX PLAYER

Maya Moore

The star of the Minnesota Lynx can let her stats do the talking: Four-time All-American at Connecticut. Two-time NCAA champion. Four-time WNBA All-Star. Three-time WNBA champion. League MVP in 2014, and Rookie of the Year in 2011. She's also the proud owner of two Olympic gold medals. She's only 27, and coach Cheryl Reeve says Moore's still getting better. "I've seen things this year that I didn't see last year," Reeve

told City Pages. One of those, strangely, was losing: Moore missed out on a fourth championship in a close, controversial WNBA Finals to the Los Angeles Sparks. If the Lynx get back to their winning ways, there's a good chance that five years from now we'll be talking about her as Minnesota's greatest pro athlete. Ever.

Readers' Choice: Lindsay Whalen

BEST COLLEGE ATHLETE

Kelly Pannek

The Gophers women's hockey team had an off year last season, losing their opener in the Frozen Four. When you've won seven national titles since 2000, merely being one of the best four teams in the country is a bit of a letdown. This doesn't diminish the shine of Kelly Pannek, the Gophers All-American who led the nation in scoring. With 19 goals and 43 assists, the Plymouth native and Benilde-St. Margaret's grad is the kind of player who makes those around her better. And since the junior forward has shown marked improvement every season, her best is yet to come.

BEST SPORTS FAN

Obadiah Gamble

twitter.com/obadiahspeaks

The 6-year-old turned the sports world on with a smile. His public debut was a 100-second rap video, the goal of his rhymes as pure as a morning snowfall. The youngster wanted to invite his favorite football player, Vikings' quarterback Teddy Bridgewater, to his birthday party. "Hey Tedd-ay, Hey Tedd-ay/Won't you wanna come to my birthday?" Gamble asked in the chorus of his ditty. Of course Bridgewater did. Though the QB missed the main party, he did drop by Gamble's St. Paul home for cake and some football tossin'. Gamble's story was shared with hundreds of thousands of people online.

BEST SPORTS HIGHLIGHT

Gwen Jorgensen

St. Paul resident Gwen Jorgensen is an American pioneer. She won America's first triathlon gold medal at the 2016 Summer Olympics in Brazil. She knifed through almost a mile-long swim, pedaled

25 miles, and ran more than six miles in well under two hours. That performance on the world stage gives credence to the argument that the planet's best athlete, male or female, lives in our midst. What makes Jorgensen our Minnesota *Sports Center* highlight champ isn't just her Olympic gold. It's her backstory. She blew a tire during the bike portion of the 2012 Olympics, finishing in 38th place. Jorgensen used that disappointment as fuel to win four consecutive World Triathlon Series races in 2014, paving her way to a world championship the following year. The rest, as they say, is history.

BEST SPORTS WRITER

Michael Russo

The job seems so easy. Attend games for free. Shoot off your mouth. Eat ballpark dogs. Then wake up the next day and do it all over again. But when you're required to produce words by the pound and not sound exactly like the hundreds of others weighing in on the same topic, the task becomes much more formidable.



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Talk of the Town

That's what makes Russo so refreshing. The Star Tribune's Wild beat writer is a thinking fan's hockey scribe, a student of the game who prefers studied observation to microwaved hot takes. He resists the peaks of fawning adulation and the depths of talk radio despair, instead covering the minute details that together paint the grind of an 82-game season. In an age when much of sports writing has fallen to anyone-can-do-it quality, Russo's the rare treasure: a true professional.

BEST SPORTS TALK RADIO HOST

Cory Cove

kfan.iheart.com

Cove technically isn't the host of *The Power Trip*, weekday mornings on KFAN 100.3 FM. It's a three-man show with Paul "Meatsauce" Lambert and Chris Hawkey. But make no mistake: Cove is the maestro of the operation. His skill set isn't his intimate knowledge of the Wolves' defensive woes or the Vikes' salary cap situation. Cove's genius is that he understands the job. As he admits, it's the "stupid" things and remembering to make people laugh. He's the conductor of the dudes' locker room orchestra, masterful in weaving the banter through fart jokes, the opposite sex, and *Reno 911!* in no particular order.

BEST SPORTSCASTER

Tom Reid

Listen to the raging homerism of Vikings radio broadcasts, and it often seems the announcers are on the verge of weeping during painful losses. Tom Reid is the antidote. The Wild radio analyst is clearly a devoted fan, but he brings a pro's sensibility to calling games, shorn of histrionics and gushing babble. He's Canadian, after all, genetically predisposed to mild-mannered good cheer. In Reid's world, the sky is never falling during bad stretches, nor do the hometown boys take on the qualities of Norse gods when times are good. The former North Star defenseman has an encyclopedic knowledge of hockey dating back to the 1960s, and he simply calls it like he sees it.

Readers' Choice: Mark Rosen

BEST TV NEWSPERSON

Jana Shortal

Last year, KARE 11's Jana Shortal briefly became national news after Star Tribune gossipier C.J. published an ill-advised

piece attacking Shortal for wearing "skinny jeans" while reporting on Jacob Wetterling. The paper apologized; Shortal seized the moment to make a point about being yourself. Lost in all that noise? The *Breaking the News* episode in question, a half-hour dedicated solely to the Wetterling case, was really, really good: dramatic, sad, revelatory, and humane. One year in, *Breaking the News* is pushing the bounds of local television talkers as a show that's by turns patient and deep, fast and funny. America met Shortal first as the woman with the hip jeans. It will meet her next as the woman with the hip show on national TV.

Readers' Choice: Jana Shortal

BEST COLUMNIST

Lee Schafer

startribune.com/blogs/LeeSchafer

If you want news you can use in a voice that's sardonic, sharp, and often funny, Star Tribune business columnist Lee Schafer is the man to see. He peels back the layers of the capitalist onion in ways that educate and enlighten. While his subject matter can sometimes be the stuff of dry chicken — it's business, after all — don't bypass Schafer. Whether you want to save yourself from a surprise 401(k) tax hit or better understand the whys behind corporate maneuvering, he's a must-read.

BEST TV STATION

TPT

tpt.org

Basic economics have a way of crushing any aspirations for good, local TV. The cost of production leaves little beyond car accident coverage and sports telecasts. But TPT, the Twin Cities' PBS affiliate, does its best to bring cerebral nourishment to a largely vacuous cable lineup. With public affairs shows like *Almanac*, reflective TV like *Hands-On History*, and arts series like *Minnesota Original*, it's the only station that regularly pushes itself to adhere to something more than the weary nightly formula of volume hairspray and prefab smiles. And we're thankful for it.

Readers' Choice: KARE 11

BEST RADIO STATION

MPR News

mprnews.org

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Readers' Choice: 89.3 the Current

BEST RADIO PERSONALITY

Matt McNeil

am950radio.com

A mainstay in AM 950's "Progressive Voice of Minnesota" lineup, McNeil isn't the kind of theoretical lefty who's come to symbolize the Democratic Party's unraveling. He's a commoner's liberal, anchored in the old-school pillars of work hard, spend within your means, and push the government to make people's lives better. Impeach Trump? Get over it. It's a GOP regime for the next four years. TSA shakedowns in the wake of the Muslim ban? The "immigration court system is wildly tilted against the immigrants, guaranteeing even American citizens get

deported," he warns. At a time when so much political chatter makes listeners tune out and turn off, McNeil invites everyone in to hash things out together.

Readers' Choice: Mary Lucia

BEST PODCAST

In the Dark

apmreports.org/in-the-dark

It took Danny Heinrich 27 years to confess to the abduction, molestation, and murder of 11-year-old St. Joseph resident Jacob Wetterling, thus ending the most gut-wrenching mystery in Minnesota history. That horrific reveal happened to coincide with a recent boom in the popularity of true crime – think Netflix's *Making a Murderer* or HBO's *The Jinx*. St. Paul's American Public Media was already set to release *In the Dark*, a true-crime podcast exploring the Wetterling saga, prior to Heinrich's confession. Reporter Madeleine Baran and colleagues scrambled to bookend the case, but nothing about the nine-part podcast feels rushed. Instead, it's a methodically reported probe of the investigation into Wetterling's disappearance, one that pulls zero punches with inept local law enforcement and explores bigger-picture implications around child

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Talk of the Town

abduction. *In the Dark* is chilling, illuminating, and addictive. If only it had a happy ending.

BEST WEBSITE

Streets.MN

streets.mn

These guys are geeks — the very best kind of geeks. The assorted contributors of Streets.MN, a blog dedicated to “land use and transportation” in the Twin Cities, are fanatically devoted academics, civil engineers, bureaucrats, and designers. They’re the sort of people who sit at home watching city council subcommittee meetings about zoning, tweeting links to PDFs of bike path plans. One writer, Max Hailperin, has started a project to catalog his walks through every single neighborhood in Minneapolis. At its best, Streets.MN is a data-driven but engaging conversation about what kind of cities Minneapolis and St. Paul might become. These writers want a Twin Cities that’s friendlier to bicycles, pedestrians, and mass transit. Whether they win that fight remains to be seen, but they sure are easy to root for.

BEST COMMERCIAL

Kinetico Water Softeners

There’s something beautiful about local, low-budget TV commercials, offering a reprieve from the ceaseless assault on our every last emotion and impulse. Take the Kenetico spot starring outdoors maven Ron Schara and his daughter Laura. She’s in Dad’s kitchen in her bathrobe, having stopped by to luxuriate in his softened water. In wonderfully wooden dialogue, father and daughter discuss the many miracles of the Kinetico system. It’s so bad it’s good. Charmingly good.

BEST INSTAGRAM

@exploreminnesota

Maybe it feels a bit like cheating to follow an account that aggregates the best Instagram photos of Minnesota. But when it’s the dead of winter and you haven’t seen the sun in days, you need a straight shot of the good stuff: distilled visual reminders of why you live in the frozen north. Explore Minnesota lets you live vicariously through every local Instagrammer with just a swipe of the thumb. See the Northern Lights, run the Stone Arch Bridge, drool over burgers, and snowshoe across a frozen lake. Or get out and take your own photos; tag them with #OnlyinMN and watch to see if your creation gets shared

with Explore Minnesota’s 100,000-plus followers.

Readers’ Choice: @eatdrinkdishmpls

BEST TWEETER

Kyle Matteson (@solace)

twitter.com/solace

Consider this a lifetime achievement award. Kyle Matteson — IT guy by day, concert junkie by night — was something of an early adopter of Twitter, joining the then-fledgling social network in 2007. He’s since amassed a staggering 77,000 tweets and 250,000 faves. Matteson is a central player among the Twin Cities Twitterati, whether he’s music-geeking on overdrive, yakking about civic to-dos, or exalting gloriously decadent junk food. Sports, cats, beer, politics, tech, whatever — he’s got a take. When it comes to music festival speculation, Matteson is peerless. At its best, Twitter is a vibrant town square or egalitarian salon, and @solace is the friendly, insightful, and witty constant.

BEST VIRAL VIDEO

Grow Food by
Appetite for Change

appetiteforchangemn.org

Five years ago, the local rap group Y.N.RichKids rocked the Minneapolis hip-hop world with the instant classic “Hot Cheetos and Takis,” a jubilant salute to the simple love of snacking. Last fall, Appetite for Change, a north Minneapolis health food advocacy group, came up with an equally addictive callback song. In “Grow Food,” kids freestyled about getting that “fake food up out of my hood,” “pop-pin’ bottles of that water,” and “passing your physical.” Beats & Rhymes, a youth recording program, produced a delectably colorful rager of a video to accompany the tune. People worldwide were enchanted and enthralled. It’s pure organic joy.

BEST STAR IN THE MAKING

Halima Aden

imgmodels.com

The wave of international headlines praising Halima Aden began last year. That’s when the St. Cloud model, 19, became the first Miss Minnesota USA contestant to compete wearing a hijab and a “burkini.” The fashion world took serious notice. In February, Aden got signed to IMG Models, the worldwide talent agency that also reps Gisele Bündchen, Kate Moss, and Gigi Hadid. Just days later she scored ink from

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Talk of the Town

Glamour, Vogue, and Harper's Bazaar after hitting the runway in a fur coat and hijab during Yeezy Season 5, the hyped New York Fashion Week show from Kanye West. Aden — a Somali-American who was born in a Kenyan refugee camp — is taking time off from her studies at St. Cloud State University, as a jet-setting model with nearly 200,000 Instagram followers is wont to do. "My goal is to send a message to Muslim women and young women everywhere that it's OK to break stereotypes and be yourself," she recently told Vogue. "Always stay true to who you are — barriers can and will be broken!"

BEST POLITICIAN

Gov. Mark Dayton

In this Age of Great Weirdness, it's hard to find a politician who isn't a wholly owned subsidiary of moneyed benefactors (cough, Erik Paulsen), or hasn't succumbed to some strange, preening form of mental illness (cough, cough, the president). Enter Gov. Mark Dayton. He can be unpredictable and maddeningly acquiescent at times. But the millionaire everyman is also the one pol who can be counted on to always put the needs of regular people ahead of those with fat pockets. With the Legislature now in full attack mode on everything from wages to the environment to urban transit, Dayton is the singular blockade keeping Minnesota from turning into Mississippi. Or, worse, Wisconsin.

BEST HIPSTER TREND

The Discovery of the Razor

It never quite looked right, the 20-pound beard on the 140-pound man who dressed like he'd just emerged from chopping trees in the woods near Ely — while simultaneously appearing incapable of operating a chainsaw. Yet the notorious Reign of the Giant Beard is coming to an end. The hipster has discovered the razor. Alas, all this may be morphing into the Old West Mustache Trend, which isn't a good look either, since cowpokes of the 1870s didn't drink designer bourbon and talk about their feelings. But it's a start.

BEST LANDMARK

Turnblad Mansion

2600 Park Ave.

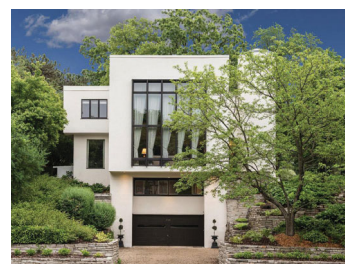
Minneapolis

612-871-4907

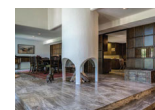
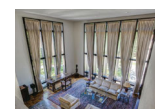
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In the early 1900s, Swan Turnblad ran Svenska Amerikanska Posten, America's largest Swedish-language newspaper. So

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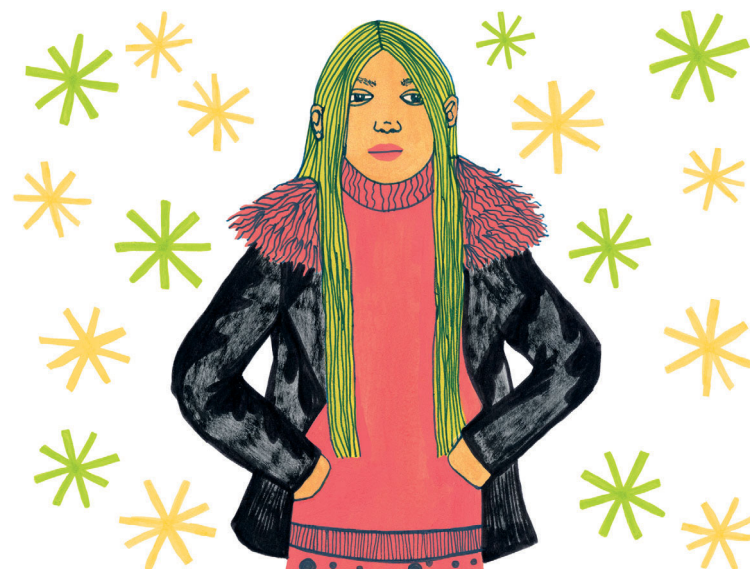
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Talk of the Town



he built a mansion befitting a news baron at East 26th Street and Park Avenue. It's an exquisite old castle, erected in an era where craftsmanship was both prized and unhurried. The woodwork and stone carving are breathtaking, as are the handmade tile stoves imported from the motherland. And because Turnblad donated the home to the Swedish Institute in 1929, it's one of Minneapolis' few grand old structures to be preserved in close to its original state.

BEST PLACE TO PEOPLE-WATCH

First Avenue's Halloween Dance Party

701 First Ave. N.
Minneapolis
612-338-8388

first-avenue.com

It's not every day you see *Futurama*'s Bender chatting it up with the ghost twins from *The Shining*, while onstage, Inspector Gadget laughs nervously near the monster from *Stranger Things*. Meanwhile, Falco from *The Neverending Story* is ordering something from a unicorn at the bar. For years, First Avenue's Halloween dance party has been a delightful, amazing, and weird experience. Thoughtful group costumes (the cast of *Archer* came together one year), technical masterpieces (the toilet Transformer was mind-blowing), makeup marvels both gross and beautiful (hey there, zombies), and Minnesota in-jokes (Paul Bunyan and Babe the Blue Ox almost always show up) are everywhere. What happens when people start getting tipsy? How is the guy in the Gameboy costume going to dance? Will Batman hook up with

Prince? This is prime people-watching, and it only happens once a year.

Readers' Choice: Minnesota State Fair

BEST DRESSED

Emily Eaton

@ereyayouknowme on Instagram

The Twin Cities has plenty of well-dressed citizens, but Emily Eaton is someone special. Her super playful, bright apartment was recently featured both in City Pages and on Apartment Therapy, and she carries that same irreverent, colorful, warm spirit into her daily ensembles. Whether she's rocking sequins, an embroidered denim jacket, aviator eyeglasses, or a red pantsuit, Eaton always looks fab. But, most importantly, she also looks like she's having fun in her clothes. It's impossible to not pick up on her positive vibes while perusing her Instagram. Eaton has a knack for mixing patterns, colors, and silhouettes in a way that is trendy and eye-catching without looking too overthought; her outfits are just an extension of her personality, a reflection of how she's feeling that day. Her clothes simply enhance what's beautiful and exciting about her, and that's what makes someone a Best Dressed winner.

BEST CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

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1555 Selby Ave.
St. Paul
651-571-4354

vintageonselby.com

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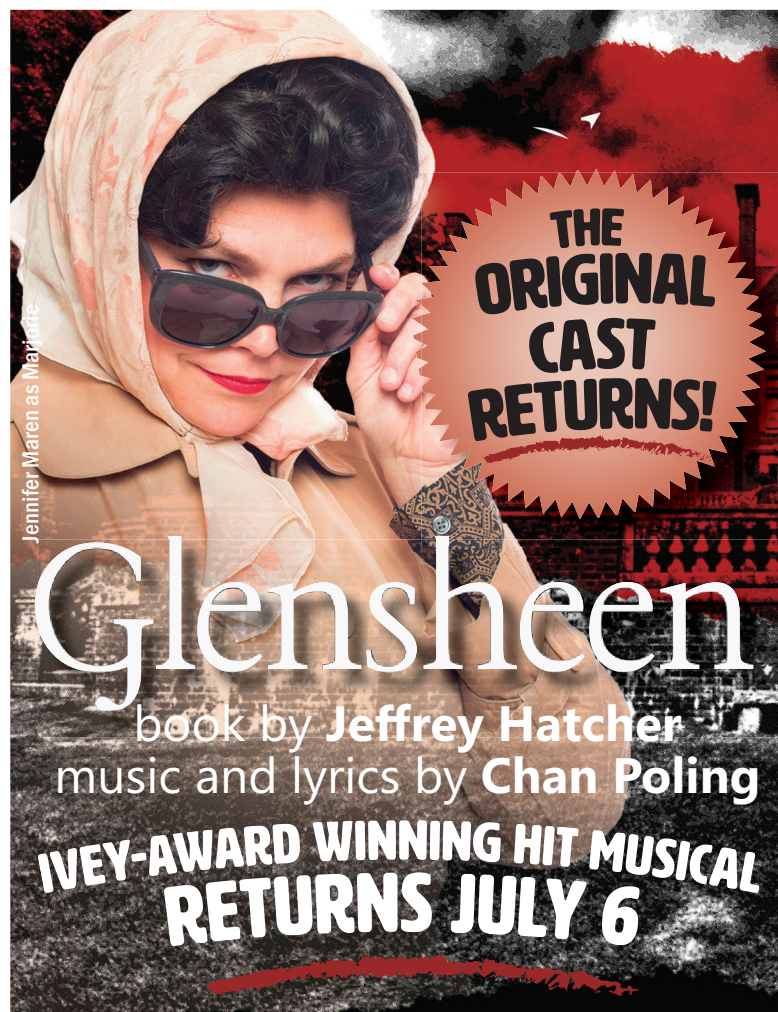
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Talk of the Town

real estate in the heart of one of St. Paul's sweetest neighborhoods. Death to the automobile means the fabulous life at Vintage. The development is a mixed-use nirvana. Two hundred-plus posh apartments above a 39,000-square-foot Whole Foods Market, all within walking distance of pretty much everything. Though rents start at around \$1,500, no one can argue with the quality-of-life factor. Hundreds of bike stalls, a dog park, and the best swimming pool this side of the Olympics are just some of the perks. It's called the sweet nectar of winning.

BEST PARKING LOT

Victory Ramp

344 Wabasha St. N.

St. Paul

651-222-7371

victoryparking.com

Residents of St. Paul can be assured that when they die and go to heaven, it will look just like St. Paul, though probably not as nice. Everything is better here, including the basic essentials of life, like parking. Introducing the Victory Ramp. For a modest \$10 for events, you're a five-minute walk from the Xcel Energy Center. Its quasi-dungeonesque vibe brings a bit of character to your vehicular journeys. And after a concert or a game, it expels cars onto scenic Wabasha Street — "the Champs-Élysées of the Midwest" — offering relatively uncongested access to I-94, allowing easy return to that *other* city westward.

BEST WAY TO GET FLIPPED THE BIRD

Attempting the Zipper Merge

There's a name for the appropriate way to blend several lanes of traffic into fewer lanes of traffic. It's called the zipper merge, and it's scientifically proven to be the safest, most efficient way to funnel cars into neat little lines. But try telling that to a Minnesotan. A true North Star State driver cannot fathom budging in a line of cars, efficiency be damned. Though polite-to-death is the Minnesota way, you might actually see a middle finger if you attempt the zipper merge in this land of 10,000 niceties. At the very least, you'll be denied a single inch of merging room, which means you'll have time to reflect upon your sins as you idle by the wayside.

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BEST ROAD

Ayd Mill Road

This north-south thoroughfare in central St. Paul is a monument to how government ineptitude can work for you. For 50 years, officials plotted to use the slender Ayd Mill valley as a freeway connector joining I-94 and I-35E. Neighborhood opposition stymied their every move. So a decade ago, St. Paul finally jerry-rigged a solution: adding connections from Ayd Mill to Selby Avenue and 35E. The valley makes it a somewhat hidden street, but only for the better. In a town short on uncongested north-south byways, it offers a traffic-free gateway to the delights of lower West Seventh Street and the suburbs beyond.

BEST SUBURB

South St. Paul

southstpaul.org

When Edina's leading citizens say their prayers at night, there's one common entreaty: "Dear Lord, please allow us to someday be as cool as South St. Paul."

This southeastern suburb offers a fetching alternative for people priced out of the cities. As a former meatpacking center, South St. Paul contains none of the artificial flavoring of its more affluent cousins to the south. And while it's but a stone's throw from downtown, it also offers room to breathe. Residents report waking up to wild turkeys, woodpeckers, and deer in the yard. Best of all, it has yet to be overrun by gentrifiers. Homes still routinely sell for well under \$200,000.

BEST SIGN OF SPRING

Kids Flocking to Como Park Zoo

1225 Estabrook Dr.

St. Paul

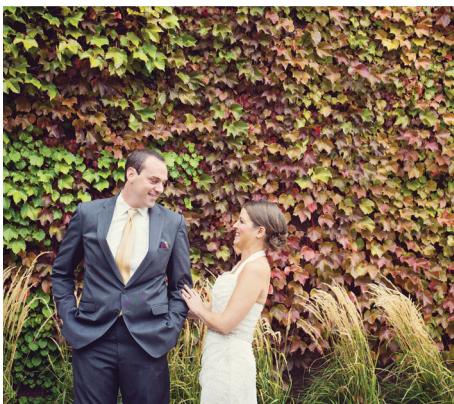
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comozooconservatory.org

The first sign of spring has nothing to do with groundhogs or baseball or swallows descending on Capistrano. The defini-

tive signal is this: the crush of children once again arriving at the Como Zoo. Since it's owned by the city, entrance is free. There are certainly bigger, better, and grander zoos, but Como's modest size and easy walkability make it perfect

for families with small children. It also comes equipped with an old-time amusement park, a fabulous arboretum, and massive picnic grounds. For households with pint-sized members, it's the Twin Cities' greatest treasure.



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Dr. Jacob Mirman from Life Medical in St. Louis Park, offers evaluations and certifications for patients who may be eligible for the Minnesota Medical Cannabis Program in Minnesota.

“Practicing integrative medicine allows me to find the best treatment types for my patients and cannabis is becoming a big part of my practice.”

At Life Medical in St. Louis Park, we are specialists in integrative medicine. Our patients get the benefit of customized treatment plans that include conventional and complementary therapies.

CANNABIS

At Life Medical we offer evaluations and certifications for patients who may be eligible for the Minnesota Medical Cannabis Program. We’ve had some remarkable success stories from patients using medicinal cannabis.

Medical marijuana comes in a variety of forms including pills, oil, or as an inhaled form used with a vaporizer. There are eight dispensaries in the state of Minnesota run by two different companies.

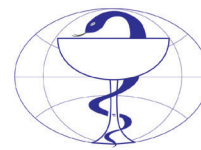
In my opinion cannabis is the safest type of pain medication available for chronic use. It is much safer than over-the-counter drugs such

as Ibuprofen, and Tylenol. And of course it is safer than any of the narcotics available. No one has ever died of a cannabis overdose, but these other drugs claim thousands of lives annually. Cannabis also has a much better side effect profile than most other pain drugs. Government entities are very concerned about the opioid epidemic in this country and cannabis is a way to help stem this epidemic and at some point could be the ultimate solution.

In the last few months we’ve not only had more patients than ever come to our clinic to be certified for medical cannabis, many of these certified patients have returned for follow ups. **Some success stories follow:**

CANNABIS PATIENT ONE: A 73 year old patient was certified for medical cannabis due to her fibromyalgia, neck, back and chronic pain. She was very tense and had trouble sleeping. I certified her for medical cannabis and she is now almost pain free and is more relaxed, happier and is able to sleep. In general she has no side effects from the cannabis.

CANNABIS PATIENT TWO: When he first came to see me, a 53 year old man was experiencing fibromyalgia, and chronic pain from multiple injuries. He was taking an opiate called Oxycodone five times a day and he was also taking Naproxen which is a fairly dangerous drug. These drugs were not ridding him of pain. He started with medical marijuana in August and by October he was completely off all of his prescription pain medications. His pain level is now manageable and he has not experienced any side effects from the cannabis. For him this has been a completely life-changing treatment.



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-Dr. Jacob Mirman-

Dr. Mirman will perform an evaluation, determine eligibility and certify the patient on the MN Dept. of Health Office of Medical Cannabis website. Then this department will do an investigation and approve the patient in accordance with Minnesota Law.



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BEST CLOTHING STORE (WOMEN)

Hazel & Rose

945 Broadway St. NE

Minneapolis

612-788-4178

shophazelandrose.com

Hazel & Rose owner Emma Berg values sustainable, ethical, well-made clothing and has lovingly stocked her Northeast shop with wares from local designers like House of Gina Marie, Hackwith Design House, and Winsome Goods. Also in the local vein, last fall, Red Wing Shoes picked Hazel & Rose as one of the exclusive retailers to debut their new line of women's boots, kicking off the launch with a pop-up event in the store. You'll also find a variety of accessories, undergarments, swimwear, outerwear, and skincare. The shop is a frequent stop for women buying closet staples, like the perfect transitional black jumpsuit, or an oversized fisherman's sweater. Can't make it in person? Most of Hazel & Rose's products are sold online as well.

BEST CLOTHING STORE (MEN)

Martin Patrick3

212 Third Ave. N.

Minneapolis

612-746-5329

martinpatrick3.com

When it opened, Martin Patrick3 was merely an interior design shop. That helps explain how gorgeous and well-designed everything is inside it. Part of the joy of shopping at Martin Pat-

rick3 is just making your way through its labyrinthine layout. But these days, much of that glorious North Loop space is devoted to designer threads, with local and national brands represented. Those can run pretty steep, but they don't have to. Martin Patrick3 maintains a healthy amount of affordable pieces, and their sale section is loaded with finds. Even cheaper than that: While wandering the racks, look for trays of free snacks set out for shoppers. They also carry an excellent selection of men's fragrances.

BEST THRIFT STORE

Arc's Value Village

6528 Penn Ave. S.

Richfield

612-861-9550

And other locations

arcsvaluevillage.org

Arc's is for anyone who has ever felt squeamish in a thrift store. Not all resale shops are as fastidiously organized or as clean as Arc's. Whatever fears you have about buying goods of ambiguous origins, a single step inside one of Arc's multiple Twin Cities locations will put you at ease. The floor layout is intuitive: stocked shelves of kitchen goods, glassware, and antique silver down one aisle; pillows and lamps down the next; then furniture and books and records; followed by an expansive and cataloged clothing section. The space is bright and open, with well-maintained racks and dressingrooms for easy browsing and trying on. The final sign that this is not your average spot for discount duds: Arc's has its own free thrift styling service. Follow @thriftstylist on Instagram



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Readers’ Choice: Arc’s Value Village

BEST BOUTIQUE

Mille

316 W. 48th St.

Minneapolis

612-209-7364

shopmille.com

Walk into Mille, with its tall, painted tin ceiling and its angular shelves, and you’ll want to move in. Those shelves hold an array of chunky knits and locally made homegoods, exactly what you need to shake up your closet and living room with a contemporary sensibility. Designs trend toward the haute (read: high-priced) end of the spectrum. It’s worth it. Unlike many of the boutiques around the Twin Cities, Mille offers styles you can’t pick up off the rack just anywhere. Items sell out quickly too, so your score is safe from being stolen by your jealous friends.

Readers’ Choice: Patina

BEST VINTAGE STORE

The Golden Pearl Vintage

507A E. Hennepin Ave.

Minneapolis

612-378-3978

goldenpearlvintage.com

This Northeast store has only been open for a little over a year, but in that short time,

the Golden Pearl has become any vintage devotee’s favorite. It’s got that classy, old-school department-store vibe: The jewel cases are from the dearly departed Neiman Marcus, and the rest of the store looks as if it were decorated by your fancy grandma in 1962 — in a good way! You’ll probably find a ’50s prom dress with a big scratchy tulle, but you’ll also find a chic Dayton’s Oval Room suit, or a flashy, gilded ’80s cocktail dress with clip-on earrings. Here, pieces of the past are fun and creative, not costume and retro.

Readers’ Choice: Junket: Tossed and Found

BEST PLACE TO BUY MAKEUP

Nordstrom

Mall of America and Ridgedale Mall

shop.nordstrom.com

While there are plenty of great local spots to purchase makeup products like killer brushes (Sigma) and liquid lipstick (Aromi), sometimes you need everything at once. Here’s why you should try doing it at Nordstrom. They carry an impressive breadth of products at varying price points, from MAC, to NARS, to Trish McEvoy, to Clinique. Their associates are skilled and trained, many of them working makeup artists. If you need to be matched to a foundation shade, they can do it perfectly while addressing your skincare concerns and finding products that really work for you. Nordstrom’s yearly “Mascara Madness” is not to be missed, either. Another perk of shopping for makeup here? If you



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Craft Cocktail Dinner Party | 6 PM



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Saturday, April 29

Independent

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City Life

also need a new pair of sneakers or a bra, you can grab your lipstick and powder and then take the escalator upstairs.

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3504 Nicollet Ave. S.

Minneapolis

612-824-2662

honeycombmpls.com

Spent four months cramming your rat's nest into a beanie? Is your fade growing out, and becoming a mullet? Let the bohemian reconstructionists at Honeycomb rehabilitate your head. The staff at Honeycomb is extremely personable, and has an inherent sense of how to get the most of your mop. They'll layer it to disguise an ugly lump on your crown, and angle your bangs to totally counteract crooked eyebrows. It's a transformative experience, and it happens in a comfortable and welcoming environment that's a far cry from the cold minimalism of many other trendy salons.

BEST PLACE TO BUY JEWELRY

b. Resale

2613 Nicollet Ave. S.

Minneapolis

612-824-1292

facebook.com/bresalempls

Nestled next to a doughnut shop on Eat Street, this store is home to some of the most diverse jewelry finds in the city. If you've ever spent three months searching for the perfect neon bangle to complete a look you've pictured in your head, you'll appreciate the nuance and the randomness of this place. Vintage brooches and re-imagined '80s necklaces, politically themed enamel pins, local artisan leather and rubber pieces, two-for-\$10 oversized earrings: b.Resale has it all! That variety lets the store be on-trend, bucking the trend, and setting new trends all at the same time.

BEST TOY STORE

Creative Kidstuff

Multiple locations

creativekidstuff.com

A staple in the area toy scene, Creative Kidstuff has long carried a unique selection of toys, books, and gifts for newborns to preteens. Organized by age and activity rather than gender, the seven Twin Cities stores carry a huge selection of creativity-sparking toys to help kids learn and develop. The store partners with St. David's Center



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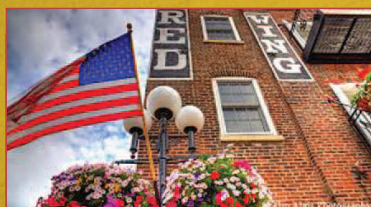


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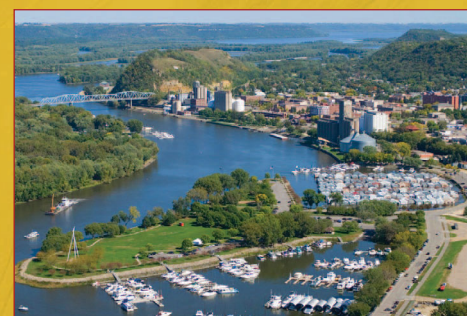
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Red Wing, MN | RedWing.org



for Child & Family Development to provide toys and games specifically designed for kids on the autism spectrum. The staff is super friendly and helpful, and you cannot go wrong with that crinkle-paper gift wrap.

BEST PLACE TO BUY A GIFT

i like you/i like you too

501 First Ave. NE
Minneapolis
612-208-0249
416 Snelling Ave. S.
St. Paul
651-340-9710

You need to buy a gift, and you aren't close enough to the recipient to know which obscure Russian comic book they pine for? Well, then you need a place that offers a bit of everything. I like you in Minneapolis has got you covered. From a knit beanie that says "Meat Raffle" to Minnesota-shaped pendants to those rainbow-colored "All Are Welcome Here" signs you've seen on lawns all over town, this one-stop shop for handmade and locally made gifts is a trove of giftable items. I like you too, the newer St. Paul location, which opened last year, is a little less whimsical but just as charming, with no artificial turf on the floors but two spacious rooms housing the treasures. These two shops are especially useful if you're in the market for any and every Minnesota-branded thing you could dream of: Put your beloved state on your coffee mug, your jacket, your tea towel, your walls, your baby. Or ship some Minnesota-themed things to your friends elsewhere. They won't forget which state — and friend — demands a visit.

BEST SALON/SPA

HAUS Salon

4240 Nicollet Ave. and
730 N. Washington Ave.
Minneapolis
651-827-4287

haussalon.com

HAUS Salon is the best of the best. Period. It's cool, it's chic, it's fashion-forward, while still welcoming and unpretentious. Even if you don't have 5,000 Instagram followers or a cutting-edge closet, you're not out of place. Check in, sip a can of LaCroix, and then enjoy a haircut or coloring with a stylist who's totally passionate about making you look and feel amazing. The stylists at HAUS are highly skilled and extensively trained; they specialize by cut or color. HAUS also does hair and lash extensions, spa services like waxing and facials, and massage. Our advice: Book one of each for yourself.

Readers' Choice: Juut SalonSpa

BEST PLACE FOR A SUNDAY BEER RUN

Anywhere!

Holy shit! They actually did it! After decades of half-assed debate and a few years of genuine public advocacy, Minnesota legislators voted to repeal the state's long-outdated ban on Sunday liquor sales. When City Pages first dreamt up this category, we planned on scouting the best spot for an in-and-out transaction in Hudson, Wisconsin. But, starting July 1, you can just walk in anywhere in Minnesota! Well,

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www.hennepinsteamroom.com

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almost: The law allows liquor stores to open, but doesn't require them to, and some smaller shops have said they'll stay closed. And Surdyk's, the long-running Northeast store specializing in imported wines, must sit out the first two months of Sundays, after brazenly opening for a one-day Sunday sales blitz several months before the law was set to go into effect. But at least the law now allows for Minnesotans to have the Sunday Funday we've long deserved.

BEST PLACE TO BUY VINYL

Barely Brothers Records

783 Raymond Ave.
St. Paul
651-340-5128

barelybrothersrecords.com

Vinyl's comeback has spared the Twin Cities from the once-feared barren landscape, devoid of independent record stores. Now plenty of neighborhoods have a local shop in walking distance. In preserving the past, let's hope we can leave behind the condescension, usually from a *High Fidelity*-esque clerk who scoffs at your



questions and rolls his eyes at your purchases. That's not a problem at Barely Brothers. The three-year-old store's knowledgeable owner, Mike Elias, creates a friendly atmosphere that makes this a

fun place to shop. The space may not have much in the way of interior design, but it's pleasantly well lit, easy to navigate, and has a stage where local bands perform. The cassette and CD section is small, and

made up entirely of local acts. Between its selection of new and used records, and Friday nights featuring in-store DJs, vinyl is clearly the focus here.

Readers' Choice: Electric Fetus

BEST DOG DAYCARE

Metro Dogs

506 11th Ave. N.
Minneapolis
612-333-3612

metrodogsmn.com

You want the people watching your dog to love the furry rascal as much as you do. Yelp is full of horror stories about staff snoozing as dogs maul each other. Trust in Metro Dogs' pristine 4.8 rating: They're an attentive concierge service for your understimulated pup. Staff there are certified Weir Dog People, which means they carefully facilitate a good all-day session for your little pup by dividing dogs into rooms based on temperament and size, with special care provided for the nervous and unfriendly. Still don't trust them? See for yourself: Metro Dogs has a better on-site live cam

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system than any doggie daycare in the Twin Cities.

BEST PET STORE

Calhoun Pet Supply

901 W. 36th St.
Minneapolis
612-824-1094

The big-box store has mostly squashed the neighborhood pet supply shop, but the bodega-style pet store Calhoun Pet Supply has persisted. It's a business that, much like its sister Kyle's Market across the intersection, has embedded itself in the fabric of its community. Sure, the selection isn't nearly the same as PetSmart or Amazon, but it's a carefully curated stock that owner Fuliang Zhou minds with an eye toward his neighbors and their furbabies. Just make sure you've set aside some extra time in your kitty litter trip. Zhou's a talker, but that's all part of what makes Calhoun Pet Supply a veritable local legend.

BEST OUTDOORS STORE

Midwest Mountaineering

309 Cedar Ave. S.
Minneapolis
612-339-3433
midwestmtn.com

This Cedar-Riverside outlet hawks all manner of toys for any terrain and climate — urban biking, ice skating, climbing, canoeing, mushroom hunting. Its owners care about your next great adventure, and about helping you track down the exact equipment you need, not what will line their pockets. Equipment and clothes are carefully selected for durability and style, which is reflected in the prices. There's a bouldering gym in the basement that's rather challenging, and completely free to use. No pretense, no airs. Just nice.

BEST MALL

Mall of America

60 E. Broadway
Bloomington
952-883-8800
mallofamerica.com

Admittedly, the "anchor" department stores in the mall's four corners remain unchanged since its opening some 26 years ago. But in the Bloomington shopping mecca's upper floors, changes are afoot. In December, the mall's fourth story was hijacked by Smaash, a games/food/drinks adventure park, for the family that go-karts together. Looking for a

little more collaboration? The third floor of MOA will soon be opening an Escape Room, the popular experiential game where teams attempt to break out of simulated experiences of being trapped inside themed rooms. Don't feel like doing a damn thing? This fall, the mall will reopen its cinema with 14 big-ass theaters operated by CMX. Expect lounge chairs, upgraded food, mixed drinks, and lots of parents relieved to duck into a dark place where you're supposed to be quiet.

BEST LIFESAVER

CellSlip

cellslip.com

It's not an exaggeration to say Mitch Bain's invention could save your life — even if you're not the one that bought it. Bain's "CellSlip" product isn't actually a bit of technology, but a device that (temporarily) enforces the absence of technology. The CellSlip is a nylon sleeve that you slide over your smartphone before getting behind the wheel. Your calls, texts, favorites, DMs, and all other alerts will be blocked until you take the sleeve off — after you've safely parked. Bain, of Sartell, came up with the idea after his wife was rear-ended by a distracted driver looking down at a phone. His wife and kids were fine, but that compulsive behavior and its sometimes grave consequences are far too common.

BEST GREEN BUSINESS

Übergrün

500 E. Grant St.
Minneapolis
651-336-5600
ubergrun.com

Headquartered in downtown Minneapolis, this upstart marketing company makes its services with 100 percent sustainable resources. It takes some creativity: Ads are mowed into grasses, stamped into the snow, written in chocolate on edible apples, or drawn on glass with a proprietary and natural formula that wipes off with a sponge. Übergrün counts as clients some of the biggest companies in Minnesota, America, and the world: Mayo Clinic, Hyundai, 3M, General Mills, and Virgin Mobile, to name a few. Those corporations can afford the most expensive marketing materials, but by partnering with Übergrün, those mega brands get a nice boost of feel-good green business. Let's hope they're only the beginning.

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WWW.MAPLEWOODMN.GOV/JULY4TH



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City Life

BEST GARDEN CENTER

Leitner's Garden Center

945 Randolph Ave. S.

St. Paul

leitnersstpaul.com

Leitner's hits the sweet spot between the selection of a big-box store's garden center and a horticulture nerditorium. Come with an idea (creating a pollinator garden!) or a problem (coverage for a bare, shady patch) and enthusiastic staff will help you pick just the right greenery for the job; they're mindful of your budget and commitment level. You're likely to find classics as well as unique varieties you've never heard of, all from a variety of independent and local growers. Leitner's also sells bird-feeding supplies and lawn decorations. They've also got firewood by the bundle, if you just need enough for backyard s'mores, or by weight, if you're plotting a heaping country bonfire or an old-fashioned satanic ritual.

BEST GAMING SHOP

Source Comics & Games

2057 Snelling Ave. N.

Roseville

651-645-0386

sourcecomicsandgames.com

The last two years running, our Readers' Choice Poll has picked Source Comics & Games as the Twin Cities' best gaming shop. Who are we to argue? Readers have their reasons: say, 10,000 of them, as in the square footage of this warehouse-sized outlet, located near both Minneapolis and St. Paul. At Source, disabuse yourself of the idea gamers are shut-ins: Its expansive gaming area can seat dozens for in-house tournaments, and at all other times, is open for free use. Don't have friends to bring with you? Make some new ones there. Source holds weekly, biweekly, and monthly game and event nights, from Magic to military figurine painting groups.

Readers' Choice: GameStop

BEST STRIP CLUB

King of Diamonds

6600 River Rd.

Inver Grove Heights

651-455-3886

king-diamonds.com

Strict city ordinances in Minneapolis and St. Paul leave flesh customers with a choice: A topless bar that serves liquor? Or an all-nude outlet that won't serve anything stronger than Red Bull? At King



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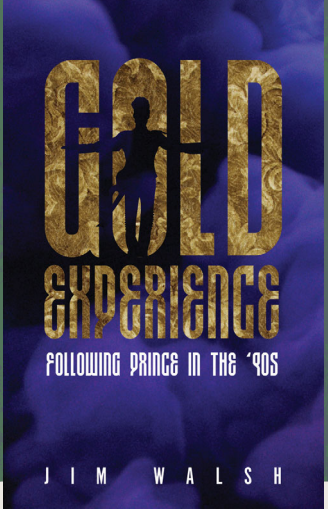
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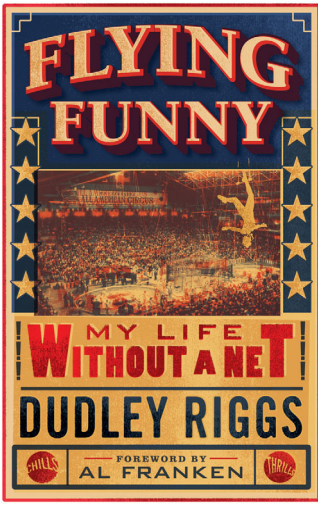
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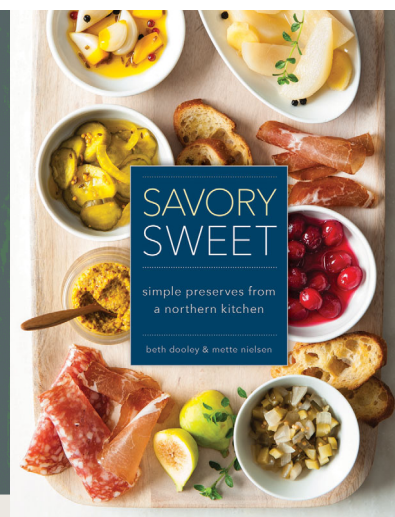
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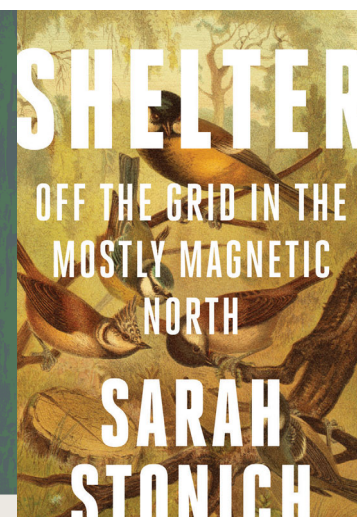
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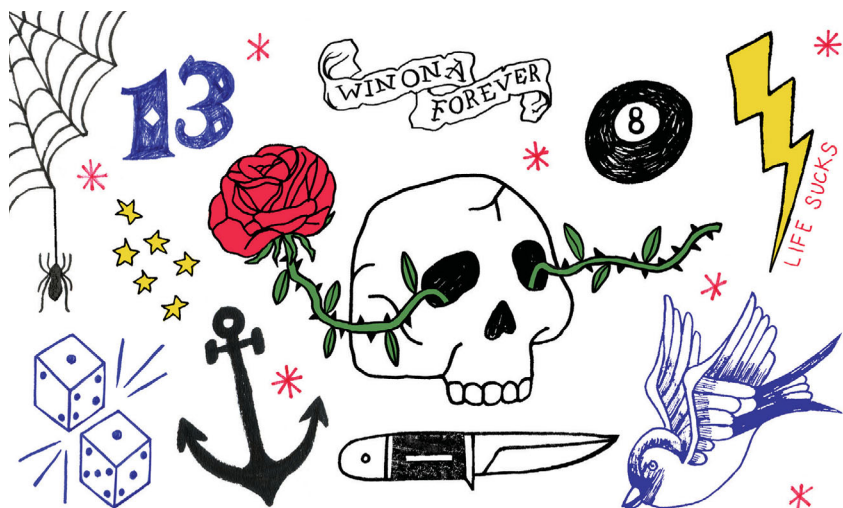
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of Diamonds, located just 20 minutes south of St. Paul, you don't have to pick between liquor and lewdness. And they've got great deals. (On the liquor part.) Perhaps you're a little uneasy about spending money on man's baser urges. Keep in mind that this gentleman's club is owned by a gentlewoman, Debra Kalsbeck, who took over King of Diamonds in 2011.

BEST PLACE TO SHOOT POOL

Two Stooges Sports Bar & Grill

7178 University Ave. NE
Fridley
763-574-1399

twostoooges.com

Two Stooges is no-frills, with green felt as far as the eye can see. It's great for league nights or casual games. While billiards can be taken very seriously, and the pool-hall atmosphere is sometimes rather solemn, Two Stooges is just as much a sports bar and grill, where a bit of rambunctious rough-and-tumble is just part of the charm of the place. A spartan smokers' patio out back does its job. Big TVs bring the football and UFC crowds. And if you find yourself choking behind the eight-ball, take a break for a beer: Happy-hour pub grub and drinks are a steal.

Readers' Choice: Grumpy's Downtown

BEST TATTOO PARLOR

Minneapolis Tattoo Shop

2211 Lyndale Ave. S.
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612-875-6717

mplstattoo.co

Getting an image or word(s) inked onto your skin, permanently, is no time to be

trying to save money. So don't put up a fuss about pricing at Minneapolis Tattoo Shop, where even the littlest ink work will run the \$80 minimum price; more complex or involved tats will cost you much more. Think instead about quality: The artists at this shop — all of them women, including the very coolly named owner, Nikki Time — focus on precision, whether that's placing a phrase in just the right place to display or conceal it, or achieving the perfect flow of color in a bird's wing or a flower petal. It'll be there forever; it's worth paying someone who'll do it right. Walk-ins welcome.

Readers' Choice: Saint Sabrina's

BEST HOTEL

Hewing Hotel

300 N. Washington Ave.
Minneapolis
651-468-0400

hewinghotel.com

At last, the North Loop neighborhood has the hotel it was always fairly confident it deserved. With brightly lit letters on the roof, a distinct awning on the first floor, and five stories of red brick, Hewing brings an elegant presence that fits right in with the burgeoning neighborhood's vibe. Inside, its lamp-lit rooms are simple and rustic — brick, metal, wood, and windows — without skimping on a stitch of quality. It's also got an impressive, Nordic-flavored restaurant (Tullibee), and is beginning to ramp up as an event-hosting space. When your stylish out-of-town friend asks about Hewing, tell her to book it. Not that you need it, but it'll be nice to have an excuse to treat the city's hippest new hotel as your living room for the night.

Readers' Choice: The Saint Paul Hotel

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BEST HEAD SHOP

Clown Glass

2214 Lyndale Ave. S.
Minneapolis
612-870-6211
clownglass.com

Minnesota's marijuana law continues to lag behind those of cool states like Colorado and California, which means you still can't mention pot while buying a piece. So for now, you'll officially have to consider the magnificent glass at Clown as merely works of art. Which, anyway, they are: The artist-created pieces — elaborate, ethereal bongos, multi-chamber bubblers, and "Sherlock" pipes — are so gorgeous, it sometimes takes a second look to realize you're even looking at a smoke tool. Clown stands by its quality, too. On certain pieces, they'll prove it by holding a prospective purchase out in front of a customer and dropping it onto the store's hard floor to prove its durability. It's a cool trick, but you probably still can't get so comfortable you admit to the guy behind the counter you're stoned.

BEST LINGERIE STORE

Flirt Boutique

177 Snelling Ave. N.
St. Paul
651-698-3692
flirt-boutique.com

Lingerie outlets have to compete with Target's cheap offerings, not to mention Victoria's Secret's "semi-annual" sales and total domination of the underthings market. But what if you don't want your boobs pushed up under your chin or underwear that falls apart four wears in? Then go to Flirt, a sexy-sweet boutique for the pinup in all of us. At Flirt, you'll find intricate, romantic lace and candy colors with a vintage vibe. The store has been nestled into its jewel-box digs on Selby and Snelling for a few years, and recently added an outpost at — of all places — the airport. Actually, after a flight or two at Surdyk's, you might talk yourself into that slinky nightie or Hanky Panky lace set and toss it in your carry-on. Whoops!

Readers' Choice: Smitten Kitten

BEST SMOKE SHOP

Perfect Ash

809 Sibley Memorial Hwy.
Lilydale
651-457-4953
perfectash.com

Most "locker room talk" guys probably don't actually use locker rooms, and are

more likely to say something off-color over a nice cigar. Don't go pulling that at Perfect Ash: The store's owned by Diana Anaya, a Mexican-born businesswoman and University of Minnesota law school graduate, who claims to be the only female owner of a cigar store in the state of Minnesota. (Care to argue?) Heralded for its constantly rotating selection of imported cigars and pipe tobacco, Perfect Ash is a welcoming place to aficionados and new smokers alike. Take a stogie out to enjoy on the benches, which afford a view of the bluffs of the Mississippi River Valley; or become a member next door at the Lilydale Social Club, the only place in Minnesota where you can enjoy a drink and a smoke indoors.

BEST CASINO

Mystic Lake

2400 Mystic Lake Blvd.
Prior Lake
952-445-9000
mysticlake.com

It's a fine recommendation for this gamers' mecca in Prior Lake that so many of its players are families enjoying a day out. Retired couples while away the hours at the slots, making idle chatter about hits and misses; kids and grandkids treat a family matriarch to the buffet. Mystic's location (20 miles outside the metro) makes it a perfect place for a one-day family getaway from town, and, unlike other day trips, you might actually make money. Mystic's bright, cavernous main room and circular design can, at times, make it hard to find or even imagine an exit. On a good day at the tables, you won't want to.

Readers' Choice: Mystic Lake

BEST ADULT STORE

Bondesque

707½ W. Lake St.
Minneapolis
612-200-8350
bondesque.com

Let's get this out of the way: Yeah, Bondesque has a gimp on staff. But this Lake Street boutique, opened in 2013, shouldn't just bring to mind that scene in *Pulp Fiction*. Think high-quality leatherwear, full-body latex jumpsuits, whips, ropes, fuck-me pumps, lace-up boots, mechanized sex toys, and, yes, plain old vibrators and dildos; the store's got whatever you need. It's also a place to pick up whatever you need to take the next step (or get started) on a sexy new lifestyle. Including instructions: Several times each month, Bondesque hosts two-

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BEST BEACH

White Sands Beach

2801 W. River Pkwy.
Minneapolis

"Hidden" Beach on Cedar Lake is overrun with hula hoopers and patrolled around the clock by cops looking uncomfortably warm in full uniforms. White Sands Beach, by contrast, is a truly secluded Mississippi River inlet underneath the Marshall Avenue Bridge, down at the end of the Midtown Greenway. Veiled by leafy canopy, it's tucked away at the foot of a steep, woody trail. Bring a headlamp if making the trek at night, when no one cares (or can see) if you've got a case of beers for around the bonfire. Dogs are welcome. The site is visited occasionally by clandestine lovers and kind acid dealers. Wade at your own risk. This is

still the Mississippi River.

Readers' Choice: Hidden Beach

BEST WEEKEND GETAWAY

Grand Marais

ci.grand-marais.mn.us

For an effortless weekend on the North Shore of Lake Superior without having to sleep on the ground, or paddle and portage for your life, visit Grand Marais. Budget Travel named it America's Coolest Small Town in 2015, and Grand Marais has been running with it ever since. Located at the tippy-top of Minnesota's northeastern wing, the town is just a few clicks short of Grand Portage and the Canadian border. The adorable downtown, with its cute little shops, is a regular host to festivals and street carnivals. Food trucks and fishermen descend in legion one weekend in August every year for an annual picnic and gathering. It's perfect for boating, hiking, and lying around under the sun on boulders beside the lake while great blue waves crash underfoot — good for the romantic in you, and for those in search of solitude. The fresh fish, it goes without

saying, is splendid. Bring some of the smoked stuff home.

BEST PUBLIC PARK

Father Hennepin Bluff Park

420 SE Main St.
Minneapolis

Down a few flights of wooden stairs on the eastern side of the Stone Arch Bridge lies a beautiful, unpolished gem of Mississippi riverfront. The lower trail of Father Hennepin Bluff Park is unlike any other park in the city. Dirt paths and unmaintained bridges crisscross an area of small, overgrown islands surrounded by a hydropower plant and a University of Minnesota research lab. There are no signs, and no picnic tables. In a city with a model park system — have you heard we're number-one in the nation? — it's easy to wonder, "Uh, should I even be down here?" Answer: Yeah, you should. Most downtown riverfront has been more or less scrubbed clean of the city's gritty industrial past. The unfinished lower trail is still raw, and it's beautiful.

Readers' Choice:

Minnehaha Park and Falls

BEST PLACE TO WALK AT NIGHT

Milwaukee Avenue Historic District

Minneapolis

Step onto Milwaukee Avenue without knowing its rich history, and you'll think you've stumbled onto the set of a Tim Burton movie. A small, nondescript street in Minneapolis' Seward neighborhood, this block looks like other streets in the area — until you realize there are no cars, there is no actual street, and the houses are identical. With a grassy, well-lit mall in lieu of a road, and rows of cute little gingerbread houses with front porches to look at and out from, this is the perfect, traffic-free spot to take a quiet stroll under the cover of darkness. Built in the late 1800s, the block was saved from destruction in the 1970s, and is now on the National Register of Historic Places. It's also studied in college courses as an example of innovative urban planning. With its uncanny houses harkening back to a bygone time and place, it feels downright magical.

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BEST PLACE TO JOG

Summit Avenue

St. Paul

Nature's swell, and most of the great locales of natural beauty around the Twin Cities, rivers and lakes especially, are full of other people who think the same thing. You'll find plenty of green scenery and less foot traffic on the tree-lined historic Summit Avenue. While Frank Lloyd Wright was known to have hated the mansions that populate this street, many decades later, they make for a more interesting horizon line than stacks of condos or cookie-cutter development houses. Start on the west side, near the Mississippi River, and you'll begin on a slight incline, then pass four leafy miles, mostly flat and straight, before reaching a nice, curving cool-down descent on Cathedral Hill, into downtown St. Paul.

BEST BOWLING ALLEY

Memory Lanes

2520 26th Ave. S.

Minneapolis

612-721-6211

memorylanes.com

Cheap, kitschy, and fun as hell, Memory Lanes is the Platonic ideal of what a bowling alley should be. With 30 lanes, it's almost never too crowded in this throwback 10-pin hall. It's also the only bowling alley that incorporates live music between bowler and pins, providing a party atmosphere that's far superior to the tawdry glow-in-the-dark tactics of its competitors. On Friday and Saturday nights, it's all-you-can-bowl until 2 a.m. for \$12.08 — a deal that's enhanced by Memory Lanes' seriously underrated late-night menu. Pints are just \$3 during happy hour, so you can drink until you hallucinate an extra digit in your game score.

Readers' Choice: Bryant-Lake Bowl

BEST MINI GOLF COURSE

Can Can Wonderland

755 Prior Ave. N.

St. Paul

651-925-2261

cancanwonderland.com

In these grim times, we need a dash of whimsy. Believe it or not, folks can find it in an old warehouse in the Hamline Midway neighborhood. Can Can Wonderland has spectacle in spades. When the crew requested artist proposals for holes, over 200 applications came in. The team's curation paid off. Its 18-hole golf course is filled with magic, including giant pink creatures,

tongue-flicking frogs, and a glowing miniature Ferris wheel. It's like H.R. Pufnstuf befriended Willy Wonka and they decided to hang out in a basement. Graffiti-style murals give the space a more modern feel, with an arty vibe from the occasional old couch and miscellaneous clown macrame. If you like imbibing, order craft cocktails from Bittercube, canned wine, beer, and boozy sno-cones from one of two bars. If sugar is your vice, get a malt made with the cereal of your choice. Carnival-style edibles are also on the menu here.

BEST PLACE TO ICE SKATE

Centennial Lakes

7499 France Ave. S.

Edina

952-833-9580

edinamn.gov

Until climate conditions force all frozen activities to be conducted in sad indoor replica centers, winter ice skating remains an idyllic Twin Cities pastime. For the best place to do it, Edina has the advantage (yet again!). The ice at Centennial Lakes Park consists of 10 acres spread out over three ponds connected by canals, all groomed daily. Skaters can take long, meandering paths rather than sticking to the usual circular route of rinks. There's also a large warming house with three fireplaces and plenty of boot storage room. All of the above is free; if you bring a little money, you can also avail yourself of skate and Nordic sled rentals (be prepared to stand in line) and hot chocolate, popcorn, and other concessions. While the views from the ice are not quite as "Currier & Ives" as the city's website would have you believe (too many gleaming office buildings), the setting is certainly not unpleasant, tucked away from streets and dotted with trees and benches.

Readers' Choice: The Depot

BEST PLACE TO SLED

Buck Hill Ski & Snowboard Area

15400 Buck Hill Rd.

Burnsville

952-435-7174

buckhill.com

Minnesota's not known for mountains, and a trip to Buck Hill will not change that fact. But if someone in your family insists on skiing or snowboarding without the aid of a plane ticket, let him or her try out Buck Hill. The rest of you should hit the tubing hill. The occasional ice patch might ruin a decent run on skis or a board;

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City Life

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BEST PLACE TO CROSS-COUNTRY SKI

Murphy-Hanrehan
Park Reserve

15501 Murphy Lake Rd.

Savage

763-694-7777

threeriversparks.org

Some of the most challenging and scenic ski trails in the state lie just south of the Twin Cities, where Murphy-Hanrehan sprawls in all its woodsy glory. Nine miles of groomed cross-country paths wind through deep forest, making a perfect physical activity for athletes and nature lovers alike. (Much of the wilderness is untouched, and an attentive birdwatcher might catch sight of an elusive woodland songbird.) Hilly terrain makes this a trail for more experienced skiers — the 10K loop is, as one regular attests, “not for the faint of heart” — but there's also an off-leash dog park, snowshoeing, and hot cocoa for a more relaxed family outing.

BEST GYM

Solcana Fitness

1915 E. 22nd St.

Minneapolis

612-888-1765

solcanafitness.com

Yes, it's a CrossFit gym, but don't let that scare you. This gym entrenched in the Seward community self-identifies as body-positive, queer-friendly, and feminist; it's also got an “I Heart My Muslim Neighbor” sign in the front window. Solcana will get you sweating and civically engaged in no time flat. This place cares about the whole spectrum of your well-being, with classes ranging from CrossFit, to yoga, to making your own kombucha, to navigating health care in Trump's America. Those classes are capped at 12 members, which means plenty of one-on-one time with a skilled coach guiding you through weightlifting, gymnastics, and conditioning. In under an hour you can rock your body, open your heart, and enlist in the resistance. Oh, and they also let you flip a tractor tire once in a while.

Readers' Choice: The Firm

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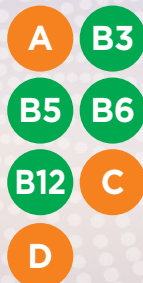
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BEST PLACE TO DO YOGA

Yess Yoga

23 E. 26th St.
Minneapolis
507-429-4374

yessyogastudio.com

You can try clearing your head and holding your butt in the air just about anywhere. At Yess Yoga, they're realizing that strength comes from within, sure. But also, that there are people hurting out there. That's why the teachers at Yess are open to innovative and specialized classes, like a recent "trauma sensitive" workshop for survivors of sexual assault or other trauma. Yess also hosts "donation" classes, where 100 percent of proceeds get passed on to a good cause, like Planned Parenthood, the University of Minnesota's Raptor Center bird rehab, and the American Civil Liberties Union. Now yoga practitioners can feel good and do good all at once.

Readers' Choice: CorePower Yoga

BEST HIKE

Shovel Point Trail at Tettegouche State Park

5702 Hwy. 61
Silver Bay
218-226-6365

Hikers get absolutely spoiled at Tettegouche State Park. Located about an hour up Highway 61 from Duluth, the breathtaking North Shore acreage offers waterfalls, rivers, beaches, birch-aspen forests, and steep, rocky cliffs edging Lake Superior. The best hour you can spend at Tettegouche is hiking the Shovel Point Trail. The 1.2-mile roundtrip journey begins with a towering clifftop glimpse of Palisade Head — the 300-foot sheer rock marvel just to the south — and panoramic views of Gitchie Gumee. From there, you'll twist through the woods, catching possible glimpses of white-tailed deer, snowshoe hare, and more than 140 species of birds (keep an eye out for nesting peregrine falcons). The path eventually spills out to the rhyolite outcroppings that meet Superior and another bounty of horizon-stretching lake photo ops.

BEST DAY TRIP

Stockholm, Wisconsin

If you wind along the rolling shores of Lake Pepin far enough, past the biker bars and designated scenic vistas, you'll find a microcosm of the Twin Cities. Just four blocks long and one block tall, the village of Stockholm (population 66) is dense

with enough cute shops, good food, and curiosities to easily fill a fine day. The village even offers a bike-sharing service called the Blue Bike Project to help visitors explore. It's a lot like our Nice Ride, except the bikes are fixed-up junkers, painted blue, and the stations are just a couple of racks with no locks in sight. It's simple and charming, like Stockholm itself. After a day of discoveries, it's time to pick up a piece of pie from the iconic Stockholm Pie Company, and cruise downhill to the village's lakeside park and RV campsite to digest while you sit on a swing.

BEST WAY TO SPEND \$5

Minneapolis Institute of Art

2400 Third Ave. S.
Minneapolis
888-642-2787

artsmia.org

The joke here, of course, is that you can visit the art institute — Mia, as it asks to be called now — free of charge, provided you don't insist on seeing one of its special exhibits. Mia only asks for "donations," meaning penny-pinchers can sneak in and enjoy three stories' worth of art without spending a dime. But that's no way to live. Not when funding for the arts is on the chopping block in Washington, D.C., and philanthropists are compelled to send checks to the ACLU and Planned Parenthood, instead of the usual targets, like museums. Anyone who can afford it should visit Mia a few times a year, and drop them (at least) a \$5 bill for the privilege of seeing centuries of art, of all kinds, all collected and staged in one magnificent place.

BEST FREE EVENT/ACTIVITY

Capture the Flag with Grown-Up Club

grownup.club

Despite what its name implies, the Grown-Up Club is not about "adulting." Rather, it helps grown-ass people act like their inner child through a variety of activities from craft sessions with hot glue and glitter to coloring nights at brewpubs. Grown-Up Club's Capture the Flag evenings are both free and popular, so you can make friends without spending your allowance (or wrecking your concert budget). In warmer months, folks throw on gym shorts and kicks and meet at a park or other public space. From there, they form teams, strategize, and run around in hopes of snagging that elusive team flag while also protecting their own. Games typically end with a walk to a nearby bar for a pint. We are grown-ups, after all.



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BEST LGBTQ EVENT

Flip Phone's Drag Brunch

[facebook.com/FlipPhone](https://www.facebook.com/FlipPhone)

The undisputed master of queer dance parties is unsurprisingly behind this year's preeminent LGBTQ event: Flip Phone's Drag Brunch. While you slurp down mimosa after mimosa on UNION's rooftop in downtown Minneapolis, the finest queens bust out their finest routines, raising money for OutFront Minnesota. There's always a theme (guests are encouraged to dress up), and when it comes to this, Flip Phone is dialed into our every desire. *Hocus Pocus*, Dolly Parton, Beyoncé, *Golden Girls*, Stevie Nicks — if you can dream up a theme, they've done it. Pay a very reasonable \$8 cover to get in, but bring cash for tips. You'll love it so much, you'll swear off any brunch that doesn't involve stuffing a handful of bills into a queen's cleavage.

BEST PLACE TO SEE AND BE SEEN

Walker After Hours

725 Vineland Pl.
Minneapolis
612-375-7600

walkerart.org

Walker After Hours events are some of the most banging shindigs in town. These frequently sold-out happenings are usually scheduled to preview the Walker Art Center's new exhibition, and feature live music, social areas, food, and drinks. With so many galleries to explore, you're likely to run into someone you know, whether it's a local celebrity or an art-loving work friend. Attendees dress to the nines, making for great people-watching, from thirty-somethings sipping wine in designer duds, to local artists arm-in-arm in vintage threads, to college kids rocking tiaras and prom dresses while munching on doughnuts. On the dudes, look for tuxes, ties, and bad-ass thrifted threads. Selfies are encouraged, and some installations make for especially postable pictures, so your fabulousness can be live on the internet forever.

BEST WAY TO IMPRESS A DATE

Northern Lights

Got your eye on a cute transplant, but don't know how to stand out among the Minnesota nice boys and girls swimming in the local dating pool? Chances are, most people will have only seen the Aurora Borealis in pictures or in *Balto*, the 1995

cartoon about a hero Husky. So put your native instincts to the test, download a forecast app like Soft Serve News, and invite your date on a trip. Drive north on I-35 until you escape the clog and smog of the cities. In two hours, you'll be in Hinckley, where sprawling farmland yields an uninhibited view of the night sky. Mercurial changes in atmosphere make catching the lights a little tricky. It's hit or miss. But the mini-road trip provides an opportunity to get to know each other better, and the road is spotted with the possibility of Culver's custard moments.

BEST PLACE TO TAKE A TINDER DATE

Brave New Workshop Comedy Theatre

824 Hennepin Ave.
Minneapolis
612-332-6620

bravenewworkshop.com

There's no quicker way to get to know someone than to see what kind of stuff makes them laugh. Or squirm. Brave New Workshop has been doing original, audacious, and thought-provoking comedy in Minneapolis for almost 60 years. It's the oldest satirical comedy theater in the country, with shows on politics, culture, or love and sex, including, most recently: *Booty and the Beast: A Cinderella Story*. Themed drinks get the conversation flowing, and the show will give plenty to talk about later that night. If you're lucky, you'll go from tickling the funny bone, to tickling and... boning.

BEST VICTIMLESS CRIME

Taking the dog out (for a beer)

Some of the sweetest, most community-oriented citizens in Minneapolis are, in fact, law-breaking scoundrels. This we learned in early 2017, when city officials announced they were looking into legally allowing dogs to enter certain coffeeshops and taprooms. This consideration came as a shock to many who assumed this already was legal, given how common a practice it is. Indeed, some places essentially have in-house pups that function as unofficial business mascots. It's all illegal under a state law that prohibits animals near places where food is prepared, and for some reason includes coffee and beer as "food." Please. If there was food around, all these dogs would be going nuts. Instead, they're just hanging out, smiling, some-





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times napping, and obligingly receiving pets from strangers. Can't a dog live?

BEST DANCE NIGHT

All 90s Dance Party, Honey

205 E. Hennepin Ave.
Minneapolis
612-746-0306

honeympls.com

The vibe at Honey's incomparable '90s dance night is easy and fun, the mood is contagious, and the DJs really know their stuff. The best part: Everyone is really dancing! It's the perfect blend of people, from those who don't miss a weekend to the ones who had to rally the troops and snag a babysitter. Some attendees look like they were barely born by the time the '90s arrived; others could've been cast in *Reality Bites*. And whether the DJ spins the dyslexic heart of Paul Westerberg or shows us how we do it with Montell Jordan, everyone is in dance (and nostalgia) heaven.

BEST FESTIVAL

Minnesota

Renaissance Festival

12364 Chestnut Blvd.
Shakopee
952-445-7361

renaissancefest.com

The best festivals are unguarded, sprawling, open-container parties. Here, grown men and women unabashedly show off their 14th-century finest, and children run feral bearing turkey legs as big as theirs. The festival's full of food and mead. (Really: The alcohol is called "mead.") You can pay to throw tomatoes at a man's face as he insults you, slash your sibling in the head with a dulled fencing sword, or cavort with dirty barn animals. The Renaissance Fest isn't the classiest carnival to roll through the Twin Cities. Instead, it's bawdy and boisterous. A worthwhile drunken romp.

Readers' Choice: Minnesota State Fair

BEST DANCE CLUB

The Front Cafe

15 Fourth St. NE
Minneapolis
612-378-5114

The Front has been holding it down with swagger for years now. There's no cover charge and an easy vibe, making it a perfect spot to stop in or wind

up on a weekend night. When you walk into the big, dark, red room, you can't help but join the mishmash of humanity bumping booties. You'll meet every type of person — a cabbie coming off a late shift in an un-ironic Member's Only jacket, a sorority sister on her 21st birthday, club kids auditioning to be Lizzo's next backup dancer. Lose yourself in the music, with a full bar of cheap drinks, and a DJ happy to take requests... as long as a big chunk of the requests include Prince's greatest hits.

Readers' Choice: First Avenue

BEST PLACE TO TAKE OUT-OF-TOWN GUESTS

St. Paul Farmers Market

290 E. Fifth St.
St. Paul
651-227-8101

stpaulfarmersmarket.com

There are few experiences as pleasant and unpretentious as a warm weekend morning at the downtown St. Paul Farmers Market. But your guests don't know that yet. Drop a casual suggestion to visit the market before you head to whatever brunch spot you usually choose to impress people. Before you go, downplay the market's wide offerings of fresh cheese, organic produce, bagel sandwiches, coffee, and locally made crafts. Maybe make a joke about how parking should be easy in sleepy ol' St. Paul. Then, when you get to the covered green open-air stalls and start your wanderings, go along with the live music and never, ever mention or acknowledge the Green Line trains gliding past. When you suggest taking your coffee and new purchases into the lovely new Saints stadium or wandering over to nearby Mears Park to sit and relax for a few minutes, be sure not to notice too much as your guests start checking Zillow for nearby housing prices.

BEST PLACE TO BE DRUNK

TCF Bank Stadium, during a Minnesota United FC game

420 SE 23rd Ave.
Minneapolis

Soccer's the best sport to try to follow while one is three sheets to the wind. There's less offense-to-defense whiplash than in basketball or hockey, and it's less intricate than football; a stray ball flying at your face won't brain you, as a baseball might. Indeed, in Europe and in South America, getting twisted and watching



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City Life

the local match is a weekly way of life. Unlike in those places, soccer fans in such condition in Minneapolis aren't at risk of getting jumped by visiting supporters from, say, Vancouver. For this first year at TCF Bank, the stadium nannies are allowing liquor sales through the 75th minute of game play. By that time, United's usually a couple goals behind, and your whole section is in the mood for one last round.

BEST PLACE TO MAKE OUT

First Avenue

701 First Ave. N.
Minneapolis
612-388-8388

first-avenue.com

Prince was sex, and for a little while in the early-to-mid-'80s, it sure seemed like sex was Prince. At least in Minneapolis. The freaky little rock god is gone, but his legacy lives on at the concert club he made famous. Skip the shoe-gazers and the thin-souled lovelorn whiners and find a funky singer or band whose songs move the blood. Put on cool clothes, and drag your best date. Whether up in the balcony, looking down on all those writhing asses, or down in the mix, sweating in the sea of bare limbs, this is a place to lock lips. It's dark, it's late, it's loud, and you've got nowhere else to be. Do as Prince sings, and use up "your extra time and your... kiss!"

BEST PLACE TO SHOW UP STONED

Midnight at Uptown Theatre

2906 Hennepin Ave.
Minneapolis
612-823-3005

landmarktheatres.com

It's been a chill Saturday night. It's late, but you're not ready for bed. Time to toke to midnight and walk your way to the movies. Every week, the fine folks at Uptown Theatre put on a late-night flick to blow your mind, whether you're caffeinated, drunk, high, or stone-cold sober. If you're buzzed, however, most offerings will be especially entertaining. There are movies so bad they're good (*The Room*), movies that will take you back to your childhood (*Jurassic Park*, *The Muppets*), movies that are super pretty (*Moulin Rouge!*), and artsy movies that are way deep, man (*Fight Club*, *Pulp Fiction*). Don't forget to grab treats on the way in; you don't want to miss anything due to the munchies.



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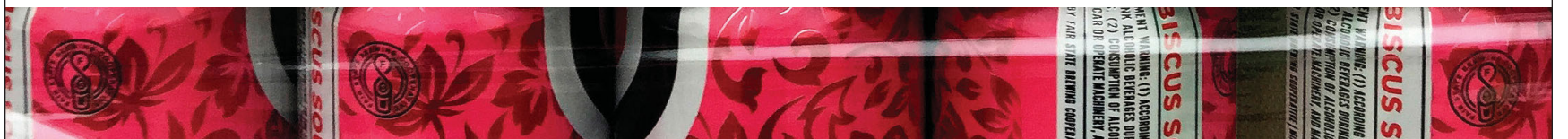
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BEST BAKERY

Rose Street Patisserie

2811 W. 43rd St.
Minneapolis
612-259-7921

patisserie46.com

In 2015, John Kraus won the pastry equivalent of the bronze medal in the Olympics. His chocolate cake, *Chocolat*, was an international marvel. Then, last year, Kraus was the first American to join *Relais Desserts*, a society of pastry chefs whose very mission is to push the pastry arts to the highest heights imaginable. Lucky for us, Kraus has delivered his world-class skills to our Minnesotan doorstep — not only at the chef/owner's beloved Patisserie 46 but at the newer Rose Street Patisserie, tucked behind Upton 43 in Linden Hills. If you're new to the Patisserie family, start with the *Chocolat*, a layered treat of chocolate ganache, chocolate mousse, chocolate sponge cake, and pecan crumble. Then move on to the *Tristan*, the vanilla mousse, passionfruit, mango, macadamia, hazelnut, and "exotic cream" wonder cake that nudged Kraus and his bakeries into the stratosphere of the pastry arts.

BEST BRUNCH

Tongue in Cheek

989 Payne Ave.
St. Paul
651-888-6148

tongueincheek.biz

Tongue in Cheek offers not just one of the best brunch deals around, but also some of the most inventive food in a part of St. Paul's east side that is rapidly turning into a culinary destination. For \$25, you'll get two teasers, one entrée, one eye-opener, and coffee. For the uninitiated, a teaser is a one- or two-bite mouth pleaser. Think amuse bouche on steroids, like the *Winter Blues*, a blueberry sphere with blue cheese and toffee nuts. That sphere reference should clue you in to the fact that there is a bit of molecular gastronomy going on here, but in the most unpretentious and fun way possible. Entrees range from the adventurous, like the *Octopus Prime*, caramelized octopus with grits and aioli, to fried chicken and waffles. The eye-opener is a cocktail — because what's brunch without a cocktail? Sure, there's a bloody Mary, but there's also an espresso martini, because hey, it's the weekend. Oh, except they also do weekday brunch. Yep, you can treat yourself this well Wednesday through Sunday.

Readers' Choice: Blackbird Cafe

BEST DINER

Band Box Diner

729 S. 10th St.
Minneapolis
612-332-0850

Shiny new diners are emerging all the time, but it's comforting to reach for our touchstones, the sorts of places that started as a dining car with a flattop, a lowboy, and no prep kitchen. Here, plain and perfect burgers, pancakes, and eggs reign supreme, and the closest non-iceberg lettuce leaf is growing in a neighbor's garden. "I had five stools and two tables, and we all drank coffee, and everybody was smoking everywhere. It was that kind of a place," says chef and owner Brad Ptacek, musing on his early days at the Band Box back in the late '90s. Ptacek bought the Band Box as a way out of being a cheffy-chef, but his chef chops are as honed as ever, they just get applied to Sloppy Bros (beef chopped, slopped, and cheesed), and "monster omelets" that seem to contain the innards of several other omelets. Ptacek has been wielding the spatulas for almost 20 years, and the Band Box was first born 50 years prior to that. "Turning grease into a feast for over 70 years" is the Band Box tagline, and "grease magician" is Ptacek's official title. Go and taste the magic.

Readers' Choice: Mickey's Diner

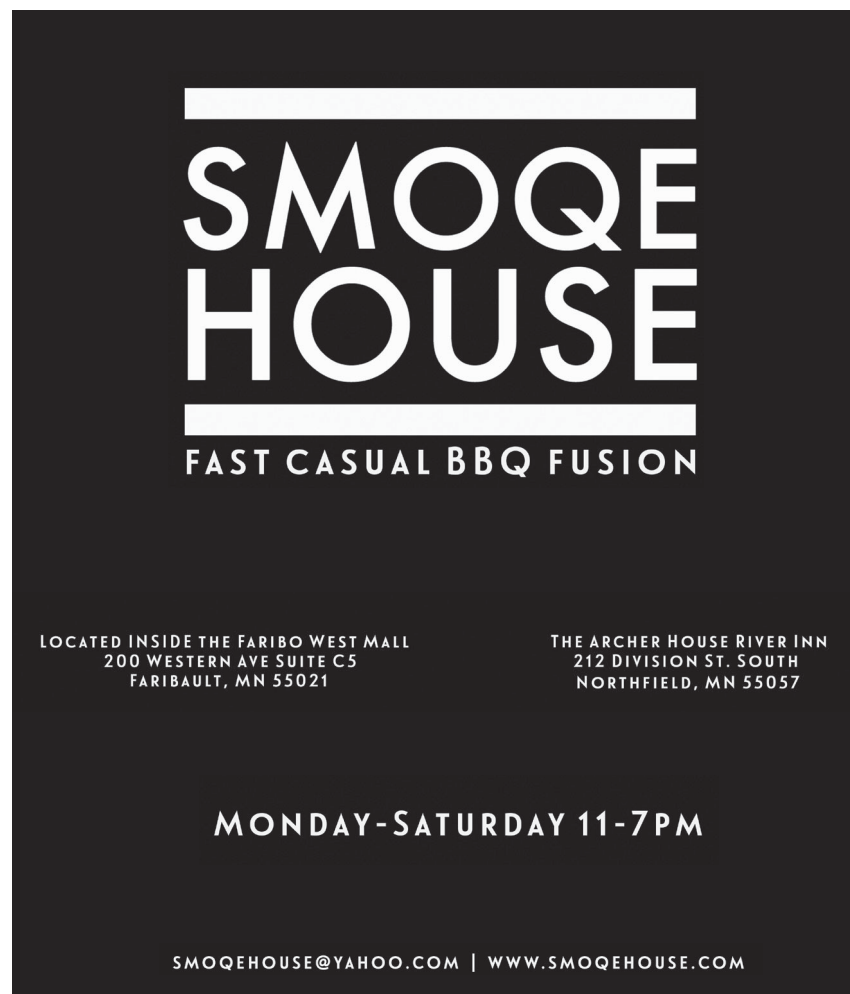
BEST BREAKFAST ON THE GO

Lowry Hill Meats

1934 Hennepin Ave.
Minneapolis
612-999-4200

lowryhillmeats.com

McDonald's struck gold when it put out the Egg McMuffin in 1972. Consisting of a slice of Canadian bacon (though sausage is a variant), a griddle-fried egg, and a slice of American cheese on a buttered English muffin, the sammie became an instant representation of what a breakfast sandwich should be. But if you're not a fan of mystery meat and questionable ingredient sourcing first thing in the morning, you can have a facsimile of this beloved sandwich, made with sustainable meats and eggs, at Lowry Hill Meats. You'll pay a little more than you would at the Golden Arches, but it's worth it for the humanely raised ham, house-made English muffin, and, yes, house-made American cheese. It looks and tastes better than the original, with added hot sauce, because even McDonald's didn't think of everything. Grab it when you can — it's only available on the weekend.



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Food & Drink



BEST BREAKFAST

The Kenwood

2115 W. 21st St.
Minneapolis
612-377-3695

thekenwoodrestaurant.com

If you're looking for breakfast during the week, the choices tend to be your reliable, but not necessarily refined, local diners. Fine for filling up, but not so much for making you feel pampered. For that, head over to the Kenwood. Nestled into a tiny commercial strip in its namesake neighborhood, the restaurant has a clubby, but not stuffy, vibe. The pared-down breakfast menu focuses on classic breakfast dishes cooked with a fine-dining sensibility, in surroundings that will make you want to sink into your leather banquette and linger over an extra cup of Dogwood coffee. The scrambled eggs are a revelation, creamy and luxurious. Pair them with a side of rosemary potatoes for a breakfast that is more than the sum of its parts. For something sweet, try the ethereally light pancakes with black walnut butter. You'll realize you don't need a menu with two pages of options.

Readers' Choice: Keys Cafe & Bakery

BEST CAFE

The Bachelor Farmer Cafe

200 N. First St.
Minneapolis
612-206-3923

thebachelorfarmer.com/cafe

A cafe must be equally equipped to serve hot caffeinated drinks and pastry at the ungodly hour of 6 a.m. and whip up an array of offerings for a quick and breezy

lunch at 2 p.m. If those needs are met with the grace and attention of thoughtful Nordic culinarians, then you've found yourself something really special. Indeed, the North Loop's Bachelor Farmer Cafe is in a league of its own: Every sandwich is worth recommending, from the lighter open-faced smoked salmon to the hearty cider-braised pork shoulder. The shaved cabbage salad with cheddar vinaigrette is a sumptuous, textural delight, with curls of fresh cabbage that twist around your fork, small buttery croutons, and a pitch-perfect vinaigrette that blends bright acidity with cheesy richness. Should you cap it off with coffee and a gooey brownie? If you don't know the answer already, you haven't been paying attention.

BEST DOUGHNUTS

Bogart's Doughnut Co.

904 W. 36th St.
Minneapolis
612-886-1670
IDS Center's Crystal Court, 80 S. Eighth St.
Minneapolis
612-259-7700

bogartsdoughnutco.com

It was nearly impossible to get a doughnut when Bogart's opened its first brick-and-mortar space in 2014. That's because lawyer turned baker Anne Rucker and her crew make these delicious sugar gems from a brioche recipe that requires overnight planning. So when they're gone, they're gone for the day. Three years later, thanks to a second shop on Nicollet Mall — and presumably less panicked doughnut hoarding — those orange boxes filled with sweet rings of goodness are easier to

come by. And holy crap, were they worth the wait. The brown-butter glazed is the perfect balance of sugar, bready carbs, and buttery richness; the Nutella-stuffed bread pillows are a dream come true; and the vanilla-bean buttercream with its eggy filling, fluffy bread, and dusting of granulated sugar is surely ambrosia bestowed upon us from the gods. For those who prefer doughnuts of the cake variety, the lavender doughnut wakes up the tastebuds and the multi-colored sprinkle doughnuts are guaranteed to elevate your mood.

Readers' Choice: Glam Doll Donuts

BEST BAGELS

St. Paul Bagelry

1702 Lexington Ave. N.
Roseville
651-488-1700

stpaulbagelry.com

In a strip mall in Roseville, the St. Paul Bagelry sits next to a nutrition store with a large sign inviting you to "Lose 15 Pounds Fast." Thanks, but no thanks, you say. You're actually looking to find 15 pounds, in the form of flavored cream cheeses and densely packed carbs. In you go, and lo! You are handsomely rewarded for your focus and determination. A menu of bagel breakfast sammies, a selection of 18 different bagel flavors, and more than 15 flavors of cream cheese await. The bagels themselves are textbook perfect: shiny and chewy on the outside, soft and dense on the inside. Craving a New York-style bagel but far from Roseville? Look for their bagels in area groceries and co-ops, and bide your time until the opening of their second Twin Cities location, in the Tangletown neighborhood of Minneapolis sometime in 2017.

BEST COFFEE SHOP

Penny's Coffee

100 Washington Ave. S.
Minneapolis

pennyscoffee.com

Ordinarily, it would be difficult to properly assess such a new coffee shop. But Penny's, which opened in November 2016, came onto the scene obviously hell-bent on being the star of the show. We've heard it said that the best coffee shop is the one closest to home, and while that may be true, the second best is the one with the fresh crepes folded over prosciutto and housemade pesto, with the floor-to-ceiling windows so dramatic the place could double as a bank lobby, with the patio that seems straight out of a Las Vegas poolside

lounge, with the baristas in lab coats, with the game-changing sound system, and, oh yeah, with the great coffee, too. Penny's owners opened the Washington Avenue flagship with every intention of turning it into a national, and possibly even an international, brand. With that in mind every detail had to be perfect, above and beyond, and just so. And it is.

Readers' Choice: Spyhouse Coffee

BEST PANCAKES

Hi-Lo Diner

4020 E. Lake St.
Minneapolis
612-353-6568

hi-lo-diner.com

Wherever you stand in the great waffles vs. pancakes debate, know this: Minnesota is a pancake state. Not every breakfast joint you frequent will have a waffle on offer, but a flapjack is mandatory. At Longfellow's Hi-Lo Diner, this Minnesota staple gets a classic treatment. It's perfectly golden, never burned, and has the crinkly, lacey edges of a properly cooked cake. The center is light and airy, and though it fills the whole plate, this pancake maintains a consistent thickness, texture, and fluffiness throughout — which makes it structurally sound for stacking. It's dappled with powdered sugar, topped with a rich scoop of lightly salted butter, and smells like heaven, if heaven were your grandma's kitchen on a bright Saturday morning. Drizzle with pure maple syrup or bourbon maple syrup. Devour. Die happy.

Readers' Choice: The Original Pancake House

BEST ICE CREAM

LaLa Homemade Ice Cream

3146 Hennepin Ave. S.
Minneapolis
612-824-5252

lalahomemadeicecream.com

Ice cream can be fun (DQ), over-the-top (Nelson's), gourmet (Milkjam), and even boozy (Hi-Lo), but rarely is it as elegant as it is at LaLa. Because it resists the urge to pour Pop Rocks on its sundaes, or shove sparklers in the malts, LaLa feels like a grown-up date place that's a totally viable alternative to a bar or restaurant. Sure, bring the kids — it is ice cream after all — but know that this is classic, premium stuff, where vanilla detonates like a world of perfume and liqueur, and the coffee flavor practically percolates and steams, it's so reminiscent of a bean. LaLa is light on the eccentric, but full of care and precision.



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Owner Jennifer Lisburg has devoted the past 25 years to the endeavor of cream and sugar, and you can taste it in every elegant, indulgent lick.

Readers' Choice: Izzy's Ice Cream

BEST CHOCOLATE

K'ul Chocolate

2211 E. Franklin Ave.
Minneapolis
612-344-4300

kul-chocolate.com

For the true cocoa lover, K'ul's bean-to-bar line of dark chocolate bars is heaven on earth. There are the single-origin bars from organic farms in Haiti, Peru, Brazil, and Ecuador; the farm-to-bar varieties in sea salt, vanilla, and Marcona almond; and finally, the protein bars: a line of nut- and fruit-studded chocolate squares meant to power you through your day. With names like "Endurance" and "Stamina," these dark chocolates will make you feel more than justified calling your favorite sweet treat a health food. The best part? K'ul works directly with cocoa farmers to control its social and environmental impact, before crafting each bar right here in Minneapolis.

BEST CANDY STORE

Minnesota's Largest Candy Store

20430 Johnson Memorial Dr.
Jordan
952-300-5926

If you're doing it right, a candy-store run should be an outing, a go-big-or-go-home endeavor. And with Minnesota's Largest Candy Store, a seasonal ware-

house located in the Big Yellow Barn in Jordan, Minnesota, it can be just that. From May to November, you can load up the car, head here, grab a basket (or better yet, a cart), and let everybody break off into the departments of their choice. If mom wants sugar-free, she can have it. For dad, poop-shaped chocolate. For the kids, ketchup-flavored potato chips, sugary Sriracha, a yard of gumballs, ranch dressing-flavored soda. They've got it all, and much, much more. Get as geeked out on novelties and hopped up on sugar as your dad (or your wife) will allow. What happens in the Big Yellow Barn stays in the Big Yellow Barn.

BEST UNLIKELY DESSERT

Quang's chocolate chip cookie

2719 Nicollet Ave.
Minneapolis
612-870-4739

quang-restaurant.com

It's no secret Quang serves up some of the finest Vietnamese food in Minneapolis. The Eat Street staple's menu isn't without a curiosity item, though. Consider the Quang cookie. It rests in stacks near the register, tempting patrons already stuffed with pho and spring rolls. But a chocolate chip cookie... at a place that specializes in all things cilantro, fish sauce, and lemongrass? Dare you? You must dare. There aren't any highfalutin embellishments on this \$2 dessert; save the rosemary and sea salt for the brasserie crowd. Instead, the massive Quang cookie doubles down on homemade comfort, from the oven-crisped edges to the warm, cakey center. "How is it still warm?!" remarked one City Pages editor, an hour after the cookie's purchase.



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Food & Drink

That's the magic of the Quang cookie, a plate-sized treat that will be reduced to crumbs by day's end. Fret not: The gooey masterpiece is never a bad decision.

BEST STATE FAIR FOOD

The Carpe Diem by the Rabbit Hole

The essence of the State Fair is ephemeral. For a brief couple of weeks at the end of summer, the tents go up, the booths are stationed, the animals are trucked in, and the people gather. It adds a bit of now-or-never shimmer to the fact that you've got manure on your shoes and you're sweating like a sinner in church. At the International Bazaar, the Midtown Global Market booth makes that urgency feel even more urgent: Vendors share time, so your favorites might be there one week and gone the next. This explains the winding line leading to the Rabbit Hole's booth, where the Carpe Diem was a must-see and a must-have. A buttermilk miso cone in the shape of an Asian carp arrived filled with balsamic-roasted strawberry jam and vanilla ice cream, and topped with graham cracker crumble and a strawberry. It was instantly the most Instagrammable food at the fair, and delicious too. What better way to encapsulate the Great Minnesota Get-Together than with an over-the-top dessert that reminds you to seize the day?

Readers' Choice:
Sweet Martha's Cookies

BEST HOT DOG

The Wienery

414 Cedar Ave. S.
Minneapolis
612-333-5798

wienery.com

Like the hamburger, the hot dog has suffered all manner of indignity, from slabs of foie gras to seaweed strips, to — gasp! — ketchup, as Chicago-style devotees will decry in a tone usually reserved for finding a centipede in one's morning coffee. One-upmanship dominates (and sometimes devastates) hot dogs to the point that the honest-to-goodness American dog is harder and harder to find. Like any good foodstuff, it's not about what's on it, but what's in it. Dogs at the Wienery are as they were meant to be: all-beef Vienna affairs that snap when you bite them. Accompaniments are varied, but not embarrassing: think mayo, cheese, kraut, pickles, and baked beans from a can. You know you've come to the right spot when you see a row of vinyl stools,

their surfaces sometimes cracked and revealing a tuft of stuffing, and a sticky countertop that sometimes gets wiped down between patrons and sometimes not. Just the right place to eat a juicy hot dog with its dignity intact.

BEST BURGER

Lyn 65

6439 Lyndale Ave. S.
Minneapolis
612-353-5501

lyn65.com

Want to know a secret? All the cool chefs go to this very cool spot in Chicago called Au Cheval. They come back inspired — especially by the burger. "Our burger is modeled straight up after the Au Cheval burger," says Lyn 65 chef Ben Rients. We totally get it: Four-ounce patties are griddled to medium rare, topped with Kraft American cheese, house pickles, and Dijonaise, and served on a toasted bun. A "single" automatically arrives as a double, and a "double" is a triple, for that additional good old-fashioned American gluttony. Go to Chicago if you want, or just go to Richfield. Like Au Cheval, it's worth the drive.

Readers' Choice: Matt's Bar

BEST SANDWICH

Philly Cheesesteak from Frank From Philly

1235 Fourth St. SE
Minneapolis
612-208-1973

frankandandrea.com

There are few things that satisfy a sandwich craving like a Philly cheesesteak. In one delicious sitting, it can wipe out a level 10 hangover, conquer a hunger that's lingered more than a day, and do it all for under \$10. Check, check, and check at Frank from Philly, where a Philly cheesesteak is as close as you'll get to the genuine East Coast article around here. The family behind the shop hails from Sicily by way of Philly, and pizza and the famed sandwich exist side-by-side at this campus grab-and-go. But don't be confused: The meat is real tenderloin, the cheese is real "Whiz," the bun is a Philly roll from Amoro's, a century-old bakery synonymous with the cheesesteak tradition, and the onions are diced, not sliced. Any other way, and you're not eating a cheesesteak, says Antonio Gambino, owner of the shop. Any other way, and you're not eating our pick for best sammie of the year.



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BEST FRIES

Nightingale

2551 Lyndale Ave. S.
Minneapolis
612-354-7060

nightingalempls.com

Very little can augment a good French fry. Golden, hand-cut sticks of pillowy potato are a simple yet essential American food. But if you throw in a little pot of malt vinegar aioli, we'll love you even more. That's just what happens when we munch on fries at Nightingale. These rustic fries are evenly cooked, evenly salted, and will disappear before you can even order a second beer to wash it all down — but not before you've swiped up all the dipping sauce that comes alongside. It offers a tangy, creamy punch to balance out the earthy, salty crunch of the potatoes. Have them together as a happy hour treat with sparkling wine, or soak up your boozy overindulgence by grabbing an order as a late-night snack.

Readers' Choice:

The Anchor Fish & Chips

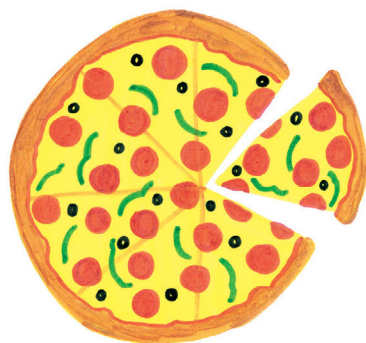
BEST DELICATESSEN

St. Paul Meat Shop

1674 Grand Ave.
St. Paul
651-698-2536

stpaulmeatshop.com

A good delicatessen is a one-stop shop for cooks as well as anyone craving a big meaty sandwich to fuel their day. St. Paul Meat Shop offers meats raw and cooked, plus the peace of mind that comes from knowing your carnivorous delights are ethically and sustainably sourced and butchered in-house. Stock up on shaved turkey and sausages, but also keep your eyes peeled for house-made chicken schmaltz and bone broths. Finally, cap off your shopping trip with a pastrami sandwich. They cure,



smoke, and sous-vide the pastrami before piling the peppery, tender meat high on customary rye bread. You can also get a punch card so that after 10 pastrami sandwiches, the 11th is free.

BEST PIZZA DELIVERY

Pizza Lucé

Multiple locations
pizzaluce.com

Lucé is something of a pizza empire in the Twin Cities, with seven locations in the greater metro area (plus one in Duluth). This gives it a considerable edge in the world of delivery pizza. No matter where you live, you can expect reliably swift service, culminating in piping hot pies to feed the hungry masses. Basic pizzas are straightforward and affordable enough to fill a banquet table and please everyone. But for the easily bored palate, Lucé's list of creative pies — from baked potato pizza with garlic mashed and bacon bits to mock duck barbecue pizza — bests the standard cardboard-box fare.

Readers' Choice: Pizza Lucé

BEST FANCY PIZZA

Pizza Nea

306 E. Hennepin Ave.
Minneapolis
612-331-9298

pizzanea.com

There are bigger names, newer ones, and trendier ones in the world of local Neapolitan pizzas. But few if any are as dedicated to the craft as Pizza Nea. Owner Mike Sherwood is a true pioneer when it comes to flour, yeast, and water. (He's also the mind behind St. Paul Bagelry, which he's since sold.) There's nothing cheeky, overly branded, or flashy at Pizza Nea. It's just a corner pizzeria, the likes of which you'd find all over Napoli, respect-



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BEST FRIED CHICKEN

Revival

4257 Nicollet Ave.
Minneapolis
612-345-4516
525 Selby Ave.
St. Paul
651-340-2355
revivalfriedchicken.com

For a study in culinary consistency, visit Revival, now with a more spacious St. Paul sister restaurant. All day, every day, mountainous towers of hot, fresh chicken emerge from the kitchen with mind-bending speed, grace, and reliability. Revival is our local fried-chicken benchmark, and the commitment it must take to get those wings, thighs, and drummies so right every damn time can only come from true chicken love. There is nothing glamorous about brining, then battering, then standing over a hot fryer for hours each day. And yet, it's the key to success for this craze-inducing bird. So far, say "fried chicken" around here, and Revival's the only name that should follow.

Readers' Choice: Revival

BEST BARBECUE

Big Daddy's BBQ

625 University Ave. W.
St. Paul
651-222-2516
bigdaddysbbq-stpaul.com

Now that barbecue is the hot new thing in the Twin Cities, try not to forget the men who were there first, the old-fashioned meat slingers: Big Daddy's BBQ. Occupying a space on University and Dale for years, and prior to that an outdoor space at the same intersection, the gentlemen of Big Daddy's have been in the barbecue game for 30 years. They got into barbecuing to blow off steam by smoking meat on the weekend, and they were so good at it, their customer base ballooned. See for yourself how tender is the smoked chicken, available by the quarter, half, and whole bird; or go big with the Flintstone sandwich, a rib sammie to satisfy the hungriest carnivore. You'll quickly learn that barbecue is like gospel — the good

word gets passed down by evangelists, and Big Daddy's is the truth.

Readers' Choice: Revival

BEST WINGS

Handsome Hog

203 Sixth St. E
St. Paul
651-340-7710
handsomehog.com

Lowertown's Handsome Hog is "contemporary Southern," one of those higher-end spots where you can get a frosty mint julep with your hog jowl, and handmade ice cream after a pork shank pot-au-feu. But we like Handsome best when it's behaving like a regular barbecue joint. They do classics with aplomb, like the superior chicken wings, only on the bar menu, and only at midday. This means that like many good things in life (and barbecue) you gotta do a little planning and scheming to get 'em. Choose between Tennessee Hot and Bourbon & Smoke. We prefer the latter, with enough smoke to leave the skin golden and crackling. The whiff of bourbon begs you to pair them with yet more brown liquor, available here in almost every permutation known to man.

Readers' Choice: D-Spot

BEST BISCUITS

Chef Shack Ranch

3025 E. Franklin Ave.
Minneapolis
612-354-2575
chefshackranch.com

At a meat-forward joint like this, you might wonder why the starchy accompaniment is getting our top honors. But if you've ever cracked into a perfect, buttery biscuit at Chef Shack Ranch in the Seward neighborhood of Minneapolis, you already know why it's on our minds. The outside is craggy and crisp, the inside is as fluffy as a whipped cloud, and the flavor is rich, salty, and sweet. It's a big 'un too; these biscuits are just right for the Texas-sized portions on the Big Boy Plate of barbecued meats or for a hearty base in the brunch-time biscuits and gravy.

BEST BAR FOOD

Iron Door Pub

3001 Lyndale Ave. S.
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612-200-9967
theirondoorpub.com

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artisan, or farm-to-table. You want something deeply satisfying and a little embarrassing to contemplate afterward, like a “what was I thinking?” one-night stand. You need flat-top grease-enriched meats slathered with ungodly orange cheese sauce and frizzled onions. You need hot nuts and bacon popcorn, cheese curds, scotch eggs, pork rinds, and “pork tots,” whatever the hell those are. (In fact, if you have to ask: “What the hell are those?” you know you’re in the right place.) You need tacos of all stripes, and you need Frito pie. Perfect, because you can get it all at Iron Door. Visit the Lyn-Lake sports bar for the big game or for the late-night munchies. When bar food is in order, it’s a guaranteed win.

BEST BARTENDER

Trish Gavin

Rare is the package deal that includes supreme lack of pretense yet encyclopedic knowledge. No mustache-twister this one (hell, she’s genetically preempted from growing one long enough to twist), Trish Gavin has nevertheless seen the back bar of many a serious establishment, from Chefzilla Stewart Woodman’s Heidi’s to the brief but brilliant Il Foro. Now she’s whipping up magic at the Hewing Hotel, one of the most service-oriented establishments in Minneapolis. With a few flicks of the wrist and lashes of the tongue she doles out drinks and dry humor in the time it takes you to slip out of your peacoat and clamber onto a stool. She’s got an honest pedigree, starting when she was 16 and working at her uncle’s bar, so this lady practically has Benedictine flowing through her veins. At the very least, she’ll have it flowing through yours in no time flat, with style, grace, and the skill it takes to be a true barkeep.

BEST DISTILLERY

Norseman Distillery

451 Taft St. NE
Minneapolis
612-568-6299

norsemandistillery.com

There’s a lot more competition in this category than when we first started recognizing liquor distillers, back in 2014. Norseman won that year’s nod, too, though back then it was merely a brand. Now it’s a destination. Just over a year into the opening of a spacious, secluded Northeast cocktail room, Norseman’s calendar is consistently filled with hot events celebrating local artists, writers,

and designers. The move behind the bar hasn’t quieted the creative spirit, so to speak. Last year brought the debut of a series of new liqueurs, and in December, a “leathered aquavit.” That one flew off shelves — then moved even faster out of the warehouse, after state regulators said the drink’s use of leather wasn’t safe for consumption. Given Norseman’s track record, do not expect it to be scolded into simplicity.

Readers’ Choice: Tattersall Distilling

BEST COCKTAIL BAR

Constantine

1115 Second Ave. S.
Minneapolis
612-886-1297

constantinempls.com

Descending the stairs to the basement bar below Monello in the Hotel Ivy feels slightly illicit thanks to the Gothic-meets-bordello feel of the place, complete with a candelabra caked in dripping candle wax and vaguely Rembrandt-esque portraits on the wall. You can park yourself at the bar or claim one of the cushiony banquettes, settle in, and put yourself in the hands of the experienced and exacting bartenders. The multi-page drink menu is far-reaching and includes “House Originals,” “80’s Resurrections,” and even a tiki drinks section. Your server, who may well be the one mixing your cocktail, will help guide you to your perfect libation, even if that means coming up with a personalized potion created just for you. Being able to order high-end bar snacks from Monello is an added bonus, whether you go for the oysters and foie gras or the cheeseburger and tater barrels.

Readers’ Choice: Tattersall Distillery

BEST NEW BAR

The back bar at Young Joni

165 13th Ave. NE
Minneapolis
612-345-5719

youngjoni.com

In a nondescript Nordeast alley, a sleek, seemingly handle-less metal door is the only clue that you’ve found Young Joni’s back bar. Behind that door is something that feels like the lovechild of a speakeasy and a North Shore cabin. A cozy, window-less bar flirts with rustic comfort while exuding vintage elegance, and somehow seems the perfect place for a fancy first date and the best kind of spot to kick back and enjoy bar pizza with friends. (No ordinary frozen pizzas are these: Chef Ann Kim



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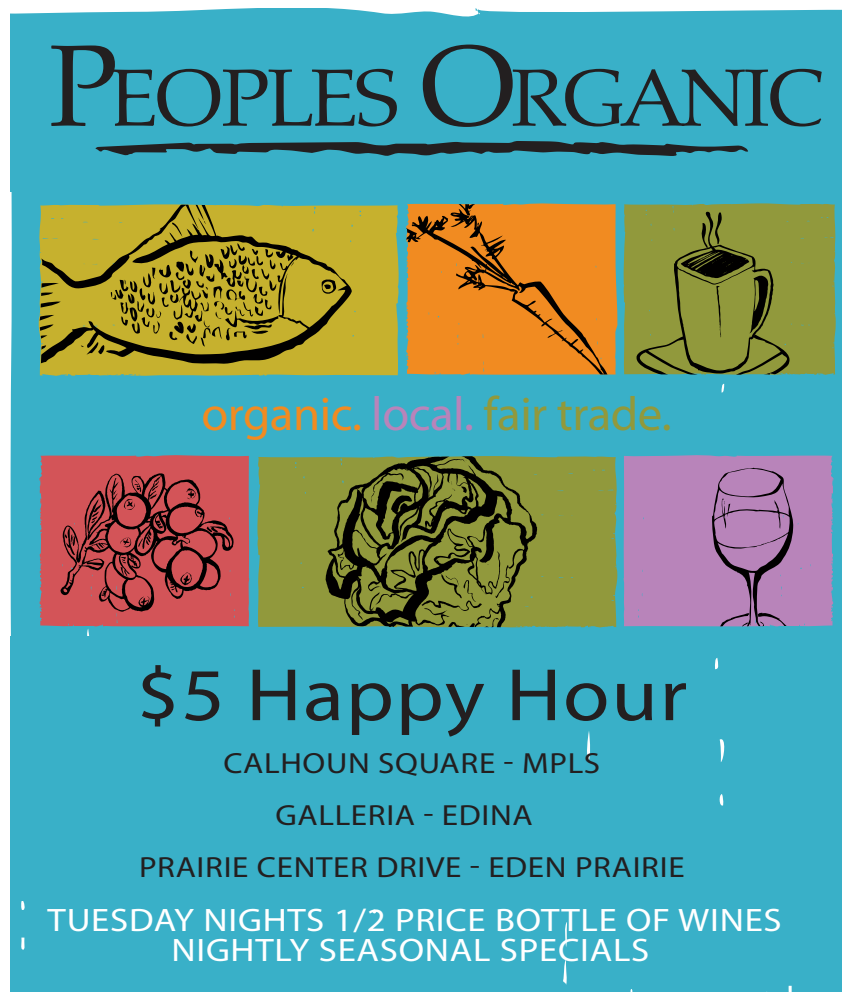
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Food & Drink

turns even the standard sausage, cheese, and pepperoni pies into pizza wonders.) The cocktail menu is the focus here, so beer drinkers will have to settle for one or two taps or cave and enjoy the hard stuff. A leather-bound photo album offers a tight list of a dozen drinks, each one with its own page, story, and set of vintage photos. Try “A Dog Named Mochi” for a pisco sour that doesn’t have that gamey egg white flavor. Or go more traditional with the Minnhattan, billed as “the classic Manhattan poured over the Minnesota apple orchard of your youth.” There is no wrong order here.

BEST COCKTAIL

The Angry Calabrian at Italian Eatery

4724 Cedar Ave. S.

Minneapolis

612-223-8504

italianeatery.com

Italian Eatery (i.e. for short) is a culinary oasis in the otherwise sparse dining landscape of south Cedar Avenue. And it isn’t just the sophisticated Italian cuisine that has us coming back again and again. The short but sweet cocktail list is an enticement all its own. Our favorite? The Angry Calabrian. A duo of Mexican spirits — smooth reposado and smoky mezcal — provide a bold base. Chipotle gomme syrup smoothes out the bracing dose of liquor with a touch of sweetness while simultaneously bringing on that slow heat that gives this cocktail its signature edge. Floating in the glass are wispy threads of Calabrian chilis. It’s a visually appealing drink with a personality to boot.

BEST BLOODY MARY

Fika at the Swedish American Institute

2600 Park Ave.

Minneapolis

612-871-4907

fikacafe.net

Don’t you dare spill the Bloody Swede. This perfect brunch cocktail’s impossibly deep shade of red, rendered with a beet pickle brine and tomato-y house mix, is the kind of hue painters or carmakers can spend a whole year searching for. One errant splash would indelibly color any item of clothing that wasn’t already beet red. The bloody’s a rich blend, thick enough you’d believe the ice cubes were not just floating, but suspended. On the tongue, it’s expertly balanced, sweet, tart,

salty, and tangy. (Not spicy, sorry: They’re Swedes, after all.) It’s a big, bright taste, a perfect fit for the surroundings. A couple sips in, and you’ll have more than one reason to avoid spilling a single drop.

Readers’ Choice: Hell’s Kitchen

BEST MARGARITA

Bar Luchador

825 Washington Ave. SE

Minneapolis

612-379-1450

barluchador.com

A great margarita should taste of nothing more than the essence of Mexico. Nothing sickly sweet out of a plastic bottle, or shot out of a bar gun. Absolutely nothing the color blue. Bar Luchador understands. Their signature margarita, the Luchador, is only Altos Reposado tequila, Bauchant (a high-end orange liqueur), fresh lime juice, and a kiss of simple syrup. The very agreeable \$7 price will encourage you to try more than one, maybe more than two, in which case you may as well spring for a \$30 pitcher. The only variant is a spicy marg, with a whiff of habanero, one of the few derivatives with which we can get down.

**Readers’ Choice: Betty Danger’s
Country Club**

BEST WINE BAR

Troubadour Wine Bar

2827 Hennepin Ave.

Minneapolis

612-871-4073

troubadorwinebar.com

Whether you’re an oenophile or neophyte, vino can be an intimidating endeavor. There are so many types! And with all of those choices to navigate, you want a kind, patient, and passionate person to talk you through all of it. They’ve got those people at Troubadour. Let them walk you through a list of bottles that rotates every 10 weeks, maintaining enough variety that the dedicated wine drinker cannot get bored. This moment’s list is devoted to organic wines. Last season it was female wine makers. Who knows what they have in store next? The space has a quiet “old Uptown” vibe, one of those tattered coffee shop-esque jobs with the impossible-to-get-out-of old couch, a coffee table you don’t feel bad kicking your feet up onto, and a bookshelf full of novels and games. It’s like your friend’s living room with live music seven nights a week. Over 40 wines by the glass mean you won’t be relegated to your typical wine rut, and you may dis-

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BEST BEER

Castle Danger
Castle Cream Ale

17 Seventh St.
Two Harbors
218-834-5800

castledangerbrewery.com

In past years, the Best Beer category has been populated with styles that burst onto your palate and demand to be noticed: overpowering IPAs, silken stouts. Castle Danger's Castle Cream Ale is neither of those things. Equal parts humble and brilliant, it's a true beer drinker's beer. Unfortunately, this creamy, sweet canoe brew has been overlooked by urbanites and marred by unimpressed Untappd reviews. But don't believe the haters: This Two Harbors flagship is a crisp, golden throwback that refreshes and marvels.

It's also the first beer to take this category from outside the Twin Cities. And for those who don't think the original is challenging enough, Castle Cream Ale comes in a saucy blood orange variety.

Readers' Choice: Surly Furious

BEST BEER, LIMITED RELEASE

Summit Keller Pils

910 Montreal Circle
St. Paul
651-265-7800

summitbrewing.com

It seems that Summit has heard the people. The second entry in its 30th anniversary series released last May, Keller Pils immediately stole the hearts of locavore drinkers for its simplicity and traditional German flavor. The one-off was so popular that the storied St. Paul brewhouse is now bringing back Keller Pils as a summer seasonal in the upcoming Boundary Waters box. The beer pairs the Bavarian pilsner malt with the Tettnang noble hop, creating a clean-finishing,

pale — though slightly spicy — beer that successfully bridges the gap between beer nerd and novice palates. It's the least gimmicky, most self-evidently great beer to come out of the Twin Cities since, well, Summit EPA.

BEST BREWERY

Insight Brewing

2821 E. Hennepin Ave.
Minneapolis
612-722-7222

insightbrewing.com

The measure of a brewery is consistency. Any brewhouse can put out something flashy every once in a while, but the ability to produce and reproduce good beer across a variety of batches and styles is the highest virtue in commercial brewing. No one in the Cities has managed such a well-balanced portfolio as Insight Brewing. Since winning Best New Brewery in 2015, Insight has steadily ascended the ranks of its peers, showing its mastery in pale ales with Dankbot and Phantom Taxi and dark beers like Gravity Well and Devil's Companion. But Insight's shin-

ing achievement has been its ability to seamlessly integrate odd and exciting flavors like yuzu, sauvignon blanc, smoke, and cherries into beer profiles without gimmick or pretension. For proof of the once-rookie's ascension to the top of the pile, try a pint of Banshee Cutter, a lager that pushed the coffee beer style into a new realm.

BEST SUBURBAN BREWERY

HammerHeart
Brewing Company

7785 Lake Dr.
Lino Lakes
651-348-2654

hammerheartbrewing.com

Suburban breweries have a rep for being wide-appeal crowd-pleasers. They usually offer the typical run of brews, from lager to stout, hoping to catch as many lapsed hopheads as possible in the process. Not HammerHeart. In a pall of death metal and Harley exhaust, the team of Nathaniel Chapman and Austin Lunn have established a true mold-breaker right off the main drag in Lino Lakes. HammerHeart's

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beers focus on rich, sooty smoked malts, bringing the specter of hellfire to their high-ABV dark beers. And you get to enjoy these conceptual marvels in a taproom that feels like the mead hall from *Beowulf*. Jogger dads and stroller moms beware: Something deliciously evil has settled on your home turf.

BEST TAPROOM

Bauhaus Brew Labs

1315 Tyler St. NE
Minneapolis
612-276-6911

bauhausbrewlabs.com

The spirit of *gemütlichkeit*, German for friendliness or good cheer, is the driving force behind the beer at Bauhaus Brew Labs. The Northeast brewers live that congenial German philosophy every weekend at their taproom on Tyler Street. With a row of free side-scrolling cabinet games and a shelf full of board games and kids' toys, the Bauhaus crew invites bargoers to stay a while in their soaring warehouse space. In warmer weather, the taproom rolls up its garage doors for an al fresco vibe. If you've ever been on the premises for their annual Schwandtober Fest and seen haus band Viva Knievel take the outside stage, you know that Bauhaus is built to be the perfect party place. That's why it's become the hippest wedding venue in Minneapolis over the past few years.

Readers' Choice: Surly Brewing Co.

BEST BEER TREND

Craft Macros

During the early days of the craft beer boom, micro brewers weren't really competing with macro breweries like

Budweiser or MillerCoors. Their product was completely different. But now that sliver of craft brewing has boomed into a market-share-gobbling behemoth, and the factory brewers are shook. This past year, Fulton targeted the multinational Super Bowl advertisers with their Standard Lager imprint — a brassy amber that could've been a market leader in the 1970s. This follows on the heels of Third Street's Minnesota Gold Lager, a tallboy that was formulated to bridge the price gap between your local six-pack and the big-name twelver. On a smaller scale, you see this rebellion in Fair State's Du Poudre and Enki's Litmus Test — a shot across the bow of big beer declaring that there is no safe territory in the craft revolution.

BEST BEER SELECTION IN A BAR

Grumpy's Bar and Grill

2200 Fourth St. NE
Minneapolis
612-789-7429

grumpys-bar.com/northeast

Quantity is certainly an attractive feature on any beer list, but Grumpy's claim to fame is the quality of its beer list. Lengthy though it may be, the run of taps, bottles, and cans at this Northeast watering hole is defined by top-tier craft beers offered at dive bar prices. Grumpy's rolls out the specials for beers from its neighbors (on Mondays from 5-9 p.m., local beers are 50 percent off), though there's also a slew of imports from Iowa, Ohio, Illinois, and Michigan. The tap list rolls over constantly, giving local barflies a reason to swing in for a Heggies and a few pints on a weekly basis.

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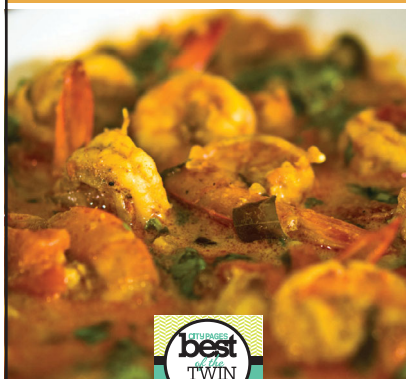
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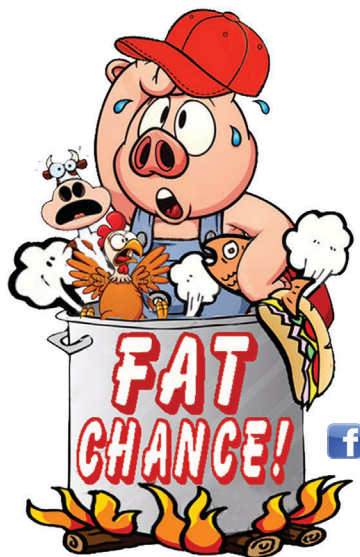
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Food & Drink

BEST DIVE BAR

The Hexagon

2600 27th Ave.

Minneapolis

612-722-3454

hexagonbar.com

When it's not serving as south Minneapolis' most reliable joint for live and loud music, the Hex is doubling as the neighborhood's coziest dive, a good place for calloused hands to grip simple, cheap, and icy American beers. There's pool if you feel bored, pull-tabs if you feel lucky, and little else. A few months ago, some guy got drunk, hooked the Hex's fence to his trailer, and drove off. Owner Bill Hepp played it cool: Got the drunk's ID, got him to cut a check, didn't press charges. At a place like this, even a big, crazy thing gets reduced to no big deal, and the mundane — a couple brews and company — is somehow made special. It's all you want in a dive.

Readers' Choice: Grumpy's NE

BEST DRUNK FOOD

Heggies Pizza

The best drunk food is the closest drunk food. Mercifully, the ubiquitous Heggies bar pizzas are always near at most Twin Cities bars. When your body is starting to feel more liquid than solid, order up a piping hot Heggies and experience the healing joy of square-cut thin crust pizza. It's crispy, drippy, salty, and cheesy — all the flavor profiles your drunk-ass palate demands. You may not be sober enough to make any other good decisions, but you're a damn genius as soon as that pie hits the table. Share if you're a happy, loving drunk; hoard if you're a selfish, flawed human like the rest of us.

BEST LATE-NIGHT EATS

Taco Taxi

1511 E. Lake St.

Minneapolis

612-722-3293

tacotaximn.com

If a taxi without wheels is a metaphor for the state of the world right now, the fact that it's full of tacos should help ease your pain. Taco Taxi's bright yellow brick-and-mortar on Lake Street serves up authentic Mexican tacos, burritos, and tortas with real-deal asada, pastor, lengua, cabeza, and tripa, plus something called birria, a spicy Jalisco-style stew. It's insanely cheap, it's delicious, and you can get it until 3 a.m. in a town that all

but shuts down by 2. It won't drive you home, but it will fill you up and send you on your way.

BEST HANGOVER CURE

Kombucha at Gyst

25 E. 26th St.

Minneapolis

612-758-0113

gystmpls.com

Conventional wisdom has us consuming grease and more booze when we awaken with regrets after a night of debauchery. In fact, the last thing your ravaged constitution needs is more abuse. Instead, hydrate with refreshing chilled tea, inoculated with live bacteria and probiotics. Down a glass (or a bottle) of kombucha and you can practically feel the little buggers going to work on your burbling gut. We're not claiming any scientific proof, but anecdotal evidence — read: we're experts on the common hangover — tells us keeping kombucha at your bedside is almost as wise as not overdoing it in the first place. Even better, if you can make it out of the bed, trundle down to Gyst, where they brew the stuff-in-house, in keeping with their mission to serve everything that's fermented and nothing that's not. You know what else that means: As soon you feel better from all that Kombucha, move to their excellent wine and beer list. At last, a little more abuse is in order.

BEST LIQUOR STORE

Henry & Son

811 Glenwood Ave.

Minneapolis

612-200-9517

shophenryandson.com

This Harrison neighborhood shop could also win the prize for "most likely to remind you of your trip to Brooklyn." Perhaps that's because the husband-and-wife team that owns Henry & Son opened the business after moving to Minnesota from the aforementioned New York borough. You'll find local beer and spirits, but the focus here is really on the wine. Gretchen Skedsvold and Mark Henry specialize in wines from small, independent producers using sustainable practices. The shop is tucked away near an I-94 overpass, across the street from International Market Square, but wine lovers seeking out bottles you won't find anywhere else regularly make the trip. And for those just starting to learn about wine, there is a section of 12 bottles under \$12 so you can experiment without breaking

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the bank. The shop hosts frequent tastings, a great (and free) chance to taste some interesting wines and learn more about them. The staff is welcoming and knowledgeable; they're as happy to talk with neophytes as they are with serious collectors.

Readers' Choice:

Surdyk's Liquor & Cheese Shop

BEST SPORTS BAR

Peppers and Fries

3900 E. Lake St.
Minneapolis
612-353-6730

peppersandfries.com

The maroon and gold Gophers' colors of the Peppers and Fries sign act like a lighthouse for any sports fan driving down East Lake Street. Yes, weary traveler, the game will be on in here. Which game? Whichever. Though petite, the whole room's ringed with television sets, and the remote master wisely sets different screens to broadcast multiple events at once. Decorations inside are evidence Steve Fries is a stone-cold baseball seamhead, and the menu outs him as a burger addict with a wild side. There's a juicy Lucy topped with mac and cheese, and a PB & J burger flavored with house-made pepper jelly. Try to remember to wipe your hands before reaching up to high-five someone.

Readers' Choice: Bunny's Bar & Grill

BEST NEIGHBORHOOD BAR, MINNEAPOLIS

The 1029 Bar

1029 Marshall St. NE
Minneapolis
612-379-4322

the1029bar.com

The uninitiated, upon glimpsing the unassuming 1029 Bar as they drive down Broadway Avenue, can be forgiven for thinking it's just another one of the more or less interchangeable neighborhood bars that dot the Northeast landscape. And in a way, they'd be right. You can get a stiff drink or a beer; you can sing your heart out at karaoke nights; win 1029 swag at bingo night; and watch the Vikings while enjoying game-day drink specials. But it's the food that sets this place apart. There are lobster rolls. Let that sink in for a second. Lobster rolls. And lest you wonder "how good can a lobster roll at a dive bar be?" they're the same lobster rolls you get at the far fancier Smack Shack in the North Loop. For a little more than you'd pay for a Heggies pizza at other corner bars, you

can enjoy luscious grilled lobster lightly dressed with a cucumber, tarragon, and lemon aioli served on griddled milk bread. Who needs a meat raffle when you have a lobster roll?

BEST NEIGHBORHOOD BAR, ST. PAUL

The Muddy Pig

162 Dale St. N.
St. Paul
651-254-1030

Do not waste breath or brain cells trying to explain the menu of the Muddy Pig, the popular hangout just over Cathedral Hill from downtown St. Paul. Burritos, pastas, jambalaya, and a "sausage and kraut bake"? It makes no sense on paper, and yet in person, feels inarguable. It's bar food. And a great, beloved bar is all the Pig aspires to be. Look no further than its continuously updated beer list, a curated selection that makes room for almost every local beer of note, plus a bevy of rare imports for the internationalist in your group. And you will be in a group. Once someone announces a pilgrimage to the Muddy Pig, anyone within earshot will say maybe they, too, ought to get back in among the dark wood and dimmed lighting. Every neighborhood needs such a place. Few are lucky enough to have one.

BEST PUB

George and the Dragon

813 W. 50th St.
Minneapolis
612-208-1047

ganddpub.com

A proper pub's a place to tell a story. Here's a good one: Husband and wife see their south Minneapolis neighborhood is lacking a community gathering spot. So they create one. Fred and Stacy Navarro's George and the Dragon is about the most family-friendly tavern this side of the pond, down to the books and toys available on a shelf. Happy hour revelers are welcomed, but be warned: By around 6:30 p.m., the restaurant likes to keep tables available for families looking to share a meal. Their fare weds the pub's English origin with the owners' own cultural inheritances, which include Filipino, Irish, and French. Bangers & mash shares a menu with the pork-and-rice "Asian Hangover," and a beef rib toastie is listed just above a banh mi. Heresy, to the proper Englishman? Offer him a hard cider, and tell him the story.

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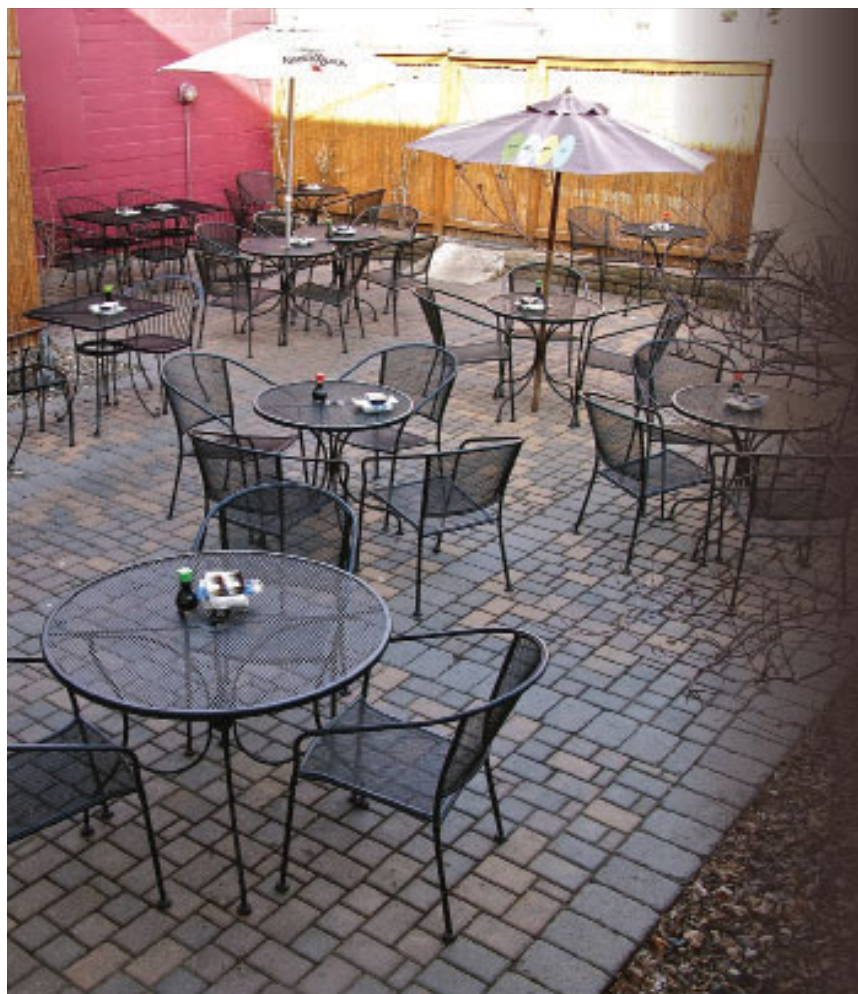
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BEST PARTY BAR

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uptownvfw.com

Not everyone has the funds to book a private room at their favorite bar, so when it's time to gather up your whole crew, you'll need a place with free-flowing booze, plenty of elbow room, and a welcoming vibe. That place is the James Ballentine VFW in Uptown. A recent remodel quadrupled this beloved institution's party space, while keeping the classic back bar intact. If your friends are the karaoke kind, the original VFW bar has large curved booths to pack in your whole singing troupe. If your group is gathering to cheer on (or yell at) the Vikings, the new street-facing bar is ringed with big-screen TVs. If they want to dance to live music or play darts or shoot some Big Buck Hunter, the Uptown VFW has that too, in the capacious banquet room. And with the Uptown VFW's new full kitchen, the party doesn't have to stop when the stomachs start rumbling.

BEST BAR TREND

Playing while you drink

If the recent spate of bar openings reveals anything about our collective psyche, it's that we're desperate for diversion. Uptown's new arcade bar Up-Down is packed to the brim every weekend; the whole town is gaga for the wild and whimsical Can Can Wonderland in St. Paul; national chain Punch Bowl Social has opened a location in St. Louis Park; and, lest we forget, Betty Danger's Country Club is still a hotspot for mini-golf and its Ferris wheel bar. Even former steakhouse Libertine was recently given an adult-games makeover. And there's yet another drink 'n' play establishment on the way: TILT, a pinball and hot dog bar in south Minneapolis, is slated for a spring opening. When you're tired of talking politics, pick up a cocktail and a skeeball and get some of that sweet, sweet distraction.

BEST HAPPY HOUR, AFTER WORK

The Rabbit Hole

920 E. Lake St.
Minneapolis
612-236-4526
eatdrinkrabbit.com

After a weekday's toil, a working woman could use a drink. Two'd be even better.

This welcoming Midtown Global Market hangout checks that box with its cool cocktails, flavored with inventive ingredients like "coffee-infused Campari" and "fat washed" tequila. But our working woman can't live on booze alone. Not if she needs to make it back to work the next morning. That's why Rabbit Hole invented the happy-hour burger deal: A rotating burger and tap beer (both chef's choice; there won't be a bad one on Rabbit Hole's menu) is a steal at just \$10. Happy hour here runs from 3-5 p.m., so you'll have to leave your desk early. But you might soon find yourself as creative with excuses to leave work as these bartenders are with cocktails.

Readers' Choice: Hola Arepa

BEST HAPPY HOUR, LATE NIGHT

Red Rabbit

201 N. Washington Ave.
Minneapolis
612-767-8855
redrabbitmn.com

A relative newcomer to the North Loop, Red Rabbit is sure to develop a devoted following for its late-night happy hour. From 10 p.m. until the bar closes at 1 a.m., the restaurant offers deals on drinks and food, such as \$2 off all wine by the glass, as well as \$2 off select beer and specialty cocktails. There's a lively scene at the bar, or you can enjoy your happy hour deals in the quieter confines of the rustic-chic dining room. The restaurant puts out tasty Italian fare — oysters, house-made sausage and polenta, pizza, and more — and some of the menu's greatest hits are also available at a discount during happy hour.

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612-532-0305
eatbibuta.com

These days, it seems like everybody with a driver's license has a food truck dream. It's not always so dreamy for consumers. For how many days and in how many ways must we eat pulled pork? More ambitious cooking often doesn't translate to the tight, mobile confines of the truck kitchen. Just ask Billy Tserenbat, who started his stellar sushi restaurant, Sushi Fix, out of a truck. Such beautifully wrought artwork was time-consuming, and impractical for a truck. Enter Bibuta, where Tserenbat's sushi burritos and poke-style fish take the fuss out of prepping and rolling delicate sushi. You



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Food & Drink



still reap the benefits of a raw fish meal, though it's one you can eat walking down the street.

Readers' Choice: World Street Kitchen

BEST LUNCH

Emily's Lebanese Deli

641 University Ave. NE
Minneapolis
612-379-4069

emilyslebanesedeli.com

When you don't want to Hoover your lunch while striding through the skyway, consider taking a jaunt just outside downtown Minneapolis. Emily's Lebanese in Northeast is far enough away from the buzz of downtown to feel like a retreat, but close enough that you can eat and get back in a little over an hour. The menu is varied to suit a light lunch or a mid-day feaster. Start with olives and feta or a fresh, herbaceous tabouli salad. Then shift your focus to savory kafta kabobs, meaty lamb-filled cabbage rolls, and chicken and rice with a side of tangy lubin (yogurt). Cap it all off with a Greek coffee and a baklava for a sugary caffeine jolt to power you through your day. Or capitulate to your post-prandial sleepiness and order a subtle Lebanese custard before heading home to nap.

Readers' Choice:

French Meadow Bakery & Cafe

BEST KICKSTARTER

Sean Sherman,
The Sioux Chef

On Kickstarter, you'll find the outstretched hands of just about every kind of per-

son with every kind of pitch. That's why it's really special when something truly unique and wholly worthwhile makes big bucks on the crowdfunding site. Sean Sherman's Sioux Chef, the indigenous-cuisine restaurant-to-be, is just that. The Sioux Chef aims to revitalize Native American farming techniques, wild-food usage and harvesting, land stewardship, salt and sugar making, hunting and fishing, food preservation, Native American migrational histories, elemental cooking techniques, and Native culture and history in general. The best part is, his work means Minnesota might get a true taste of what our culinary heritage is all about, beyond church-basement hot dish and jiggly lutefisk. That alone has to be worth at least the \$148,728 pledged to help bring Sherman's project to life. Watch for the restaurant sometime this year.

BEST PLACE TO TAKE KIDS OUT TO EAT

Galactic Pizza

2917 Lyndale Ave. S.
Minneapolis
612-824-9100

galacticpizza.com

Are you tired of eating dinner with your children at home, but terrified of what they might do in public? Pizza superheroes to the rescue! Behind Galactic Pizza's bright yellow storefront you'll find just enough distractions to keep the kiddos occupied until your meal arrives: There are framed superhero costumes on the wall, 3D glasses that work on the multi-page menus, and an oversized coloring page with a hidden-items challenge that they'll never complete (but good luck



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finding that carbon atom!). The very tasty pizza comes in three sizes, so little ones can have their plain cheese while the grown-ups try something a little more adventurous, like the Minnesota-centric Paul Bunyan with wild rice and morels, or the seasonally changing CSA Pizza. Happy hour (also known as little kids' dinner hour) brings discounted appetizers and, for the deserving parents, \$3 beers from Surly, Flat Earth, and more. Plus your kids will glean a little something about environmental concerns without being overtly taught, as they read about the "planet saving pizza" on the menu or catch glimpses of costumed delivery drivers heading to their electric cars.

BEST GLUTEN-FREE MENU

Sassy Spoon

5011 34th Ave. S.
Minneapolis
612-886-1793

sassyspoonmpls.com

Few chefs have carried the baton for dietary needs like Tamara Brown of Sassy Spoon, and even fewer have done it so deliciously. Starting out in a big, very pink food truck, the nutritionist-turned-cook was finally able to open a brick-and-mortar space for her gluten-free kitchen in early 2015, where she's been cranking out celiac-friendly fare ever since. Brown definitely embraces veg on her menu, but you'll find many permutations of meat as well, plus lots of rendered lard (a healthy fat that Brown loves), pork cracklins as an ice cream topping, and cookie dough for dessert. Mothers of children with celiac disease love the place because there's not a thing off-limits for little ones. They can heave a sigh of relief and then toast with an ice-cold gluten-free beer.

BEST POP-UP

Cook St. Paul

1124 Payne Ave. S.
St. Paul
651-756-1787

cookstp.com

A pop-up can't pop up without a place to do so. No brick-and-mortar restaurant has been as welcoming to scrappy local pop-ups as Cook St. Paul. It's not an accident. When owner Eddie Wu was dreaming up his Payne Avenue diner, making a space for others to grow was part of the business plan. He's followed through, letting up-and-comers play restaurant every Friday night. Those nights are an obvious stepping-stone toward

ownership, one every would-be chef should try before taking the plunge. Cook has hosted dozens of restaurant hopefuls, and even some who simply want to cook but aren't on the fast-track to ownership, a legitimate effort in itself. The Hmong cuisine of Union Kitchen, second-generation Chinese at Dumpling (now with their own storefront), the Filipino food of Lola Rosa, and many more have made their way through Wu's wee kitchen. Cook St. Paul is an important addition to Twin Cities dining, both as a restaurant and as a training ground for the restaurants of the future.

BEST VEGAN EATS

Reverie Cafe + Bar

1931 Nicollet Ave.
Minneapolis
612-353-5252

reveriempls.com

Committing to a plant-based diet isn't such a hard sell in theory. It's arguably better for the environment, for animals, for your health. But the flavors and textures of vegan food often scare people away before they can be swayed to the greener side. If only they got a taste of Reverie. This Stevens Square spot proves just how delicious, how craveable plant-based dining can be. From the tangy mock duck barbecue sandwich on French bread to the hearty kale and lentil curry soup, Reverie balances vegetable-forward fare with the faux meats and cheeses that make vegan dining a little more interesting. It's also a popular hangout with a full list of ciders and beers, and regularly scheduled live music. Though Reverie has announced it will move to another Twin Cities location soon, you can still get tasty vegan eats here through the end of July.

BEST VEGETARIAN EATS

Esker Grove

723 Vineland Place
Minneapolis
612-375-7542

eskergrrove.com

It's a great time to be a vegetarian, as world-class chefs turn their attention to vegetables, moving them from side dish to star of the show. Gone are the days of making do with a sad, boring salad for dinner. Bring on "whole vegetable" cooking, where every inch of the product, from root to leaves, is used. Esker Grove, the new restaurant in the Walker Art Center, doesn't bill itself as vegetarian, but chef Doug Flicker is serving up some stellar

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Food & Drink

vegetable-centric dishes. Flicker, who delighted diners during the six-year run of the now-shuttered Piccolo, has taken his considerable talents to the stylish new space that overlooks the Walker's sculpture garden. Dishes like cauliflower with preserved mushrooms, onion, and puffed wild rice, or red rice with miso, kale, preserved mushrooms, and rotisserie vegetables mean even carnivores won't miss the meat. And if you do want a salad, the Esker Grove version with seaweeds, herbs, and vegetables is a revelation.

BEST FOOD TREND

Plant-Based Eating

How many pig parts can you eat? Chances are you ate nose-to-tail and then some in the early 2000s and beyond, thanks to all the trendy chefs' obsession with repurposing snouts and hooves. But no matter how responsible the source, charcuterie eight days a week just ain't good for you. Don't believe us? Ask all the middle-aged chefs who are on the treadmill these days, and hopping on the vegetable train, too. Remember vegetables? The things that our diets are supposed to be based on? Chefs are getting hip, and thankfully, carrots, beans, and broccoli don't have to be a punishment anymore. Look to many new restaurants — Esker Grove, Seward Co-op Creamery, Tori Ramen — for a newfound reverence for what the earth giveth, then dig in.

BEST RESTAURANT TO TAKE OUT-OF-TOWNERS

Matt's Bar

3500 Cedar Ave. S.
Minneapolis
612-722-7072

mattsbar.com

Remember the days when we naively thought Hillary Clinton would be our next president? When we could laugh derisively at the notion that Donald Trump would make it past the Republican primaries? Head to Matt's Bar, ask them to point out the booth where President Obama sat when he visited the venerable neighborhood institution in 2014, and drift back to more innocent times by indulging in a burger that hasn't changed in over 60 years in a bar that looks much the same as it did back when the place opened in 1954. Your Jucy Lucy (no "i" please) arrives unceremoniously in a red-and-white paper boat, the molten cheese ready to scald your tongue if you

bite too soon. This may not be the flashiest or hippest place in town, and there's no cutting-edge food coming off that ancient griddle, but for a true taste of Minneapolis, this is the place to take your guests. After all, if it was good enough for Obama, isn't it good enough for your old college roommate?

BEST RESTAURANT WORTH THE DRIVE

New Scenic Café

5461 North Shore Dr.
Duluth
218-525-6274

newsceniccafe.com

Let's talk senses. Visually, Minnesota's North Shore is impossible to beat, and such eye-popping views deserve flavors to match. New Scenic Café damn near perfects that combination. You'll find the window-dotted, metal-roofed cafe about 20 minutes up Highway 61 from downtown Duluth. Since 1999, well before buzz terms like farm-to-table became boilerplate marketing, New Scenic has stressed organic and local. Outside, a fire pit roars about 100 feet from Lake Superior; a garden blooms magnificently with herbs and veggies. Inside, the cabin-like aesthetic is offset by walls showcasing regional artists and tables boasting passionately executed seasonal fare — think curried blue mussels, venison sandwiches with lingonberry jam, seared sturgeon with butter-poached cabbage, orchard-fresh pie à la mode. The impressive wine list culls from France and California, but the craft beers (Bent Paddle, Castle Danger) and spirits (Vikre Distillery's undeniable aquavit) are as uniquely Minnesotan as New Scenic.

BEST RESTAURANT FOR A FIRST DATE

Can Can Wonderland

755 Prior Ave. N.
St. Paul
651-925-2261

cancanwonderland.com

For as long as humans have put on carnivals, these colorful gatherings have been magnets for new lovers. Like a stroll on the Coney Island Boardwalk, a date to Can Can Wonderland offers all the silly games and wacky distractions one needs to ease the awkwardness of a budding romance. Fantastic artist-designed mini golf, pinball and ping pong, arcade games — it's all packed into this repurposed



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Food & Drink

warehouse in the middle of nowhere St. Paul. The food and drink is sometimes Wonka-esque in its weirdness (maple and sage cotton candy, anyone? Boone's Farm slushie?), but there are plenty of familiar classics like nachos, hot dogs, and pretzels with cheese so no palate feels snubbed. If you and your date can't find things to talk about in this phantasmagoric playland, it was never going to work out anyway.

BEST PATIO

Jefe Urban Hacienda

219 SE Main St.
Minneapolis
612-255-2000

jefeminneapolis.com

Twin Cities denizens love a good patio — enough for restaurants and bars around town to drag out the tables and chairs if it hits 50 degrees in March, and for hardy Minnesotans to show up and put butts in the seats. Saner souls are biding their time until the mercury hits at least 60, making a mental list of all the places they'll soak up the sun while sucking down the booze. Jefe Urban Hacienda should be high on that list. The patio is essentially a deck that spans the entire length of the front of the restaurant and offers a panoramic view of the quaint brick streets of St. Anthony Main, with the Mississippi River in the background and the Minneapolis skyline in the distance. It's the perfect place to while away a gorgeous spring or summer evening while sipping one of the restaurant's signature margaritas.

BEST VIEW

Red River Kitchen at City House

258 Walnut St.
St. Paul

redriverkitchen.com

We Minnesotans love our lakes to death. Yet in the Twin Cities we often take our place on the Mississippi for granted, though our very existence as a city depends on it. Head over to Red River Kitchen at City House and see the river anew. While in this restored grain elevator and flour mill turned bar, restaurant, and play space, you're quite literally sitting on St. Paul food history. As the river rushes by, a paddleboat or maybe a barge floating on it, enjoy a Minnesota-made gin and tonic, and a fish taco. Contemplate all that the river has made possible, you lucky Minnesotan you.

BEST OLD-SCHOOL RESTAURANT

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425 W. Seventh St.
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After 84 years in business, DeGidio's has got things just about right. The West Seventh Street fixture is where to go for old-school service and true, homestyle, never flashy Italian. The room screams classic comfort without showing wear or patina. Multiple generations have trusted DeGidio's for funeral and wedding luncheons (the party room features a dance floor and space for a full band), but it is just as appropriate for Tuesday lunch and Saturday dinner. You're taken care of within a minute of walking in. Appetizers, salads, drinks, entrees, and desserts for two (and a generous tip) all ring in on the right side of a hundred dollar bill, and there'll be leftovers for at least a day. Plus, you never have to pry hospitality out of anyone at DeGidio's. No matter who you are, you're family here.

BEST SERVICE

St. Genevieve

5003 Bryant Ave. S.
Minneapolis
612-353-4843

stgmpls.com

"Ladies and gentlemen serving ladies and gentlemen" is a sort of philosophy of service at St. Genevieve, south Minneapolis' most Francophile nook, where champagne flows like water and tartines are a fancy name for some of the best sandwiches ever. From the moment one crosses the threshold, a low-lit theatrical experience nudges real life to its rightful place at the back of your mind, as servers and hosts become more like assistants on Fantasy Island. Measured in their spot-on timing, genuine sincerity sans lugubriousness, and fine stewardship of information and charm, the hospitality workers at St. Gen are second to none. Staff style of dress is not trying too hard, but not cookie-cutter, a little like they're taking you out on a first date. This is, after all, your dime, your Saturday night, and you've chosen them. You will again.

Readers' Choice: The Bachelor Farmer



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Food & Drink

BEST COOKBOOK

The Birchwood Cafe Cookbook

Here in the way, way north, with our many months of winter, we need recipes to be utilitarian. Caprese salad with tomatoes red as a starlet's lips isn't on the menu in February. Birchwood Cafe's got you, just as it has had us all, season after season, for 27 years. In a brilliant twist, this cookbook doesn't stop with the four seasons. Eking out nourishing meals means having a pulse on far subtler nuances. You'll cook through spring and summer, then enter into "scorch," "autumn," "dusk," and "frost." It is in frost when you'll feast on buttermilk waffles with cinnamon whipped cream, or a coconut, turkey, and lime wild rice soup. Winter sounds so much less dreary when you put it that way. This is truly a cookbook for all seasons, including ones you didn't even know we had.

BEST CHEF

Erick Harcey

No chef better embodies the spirit of Minnesota food than Erick Harcey. For grit, the man lives in rural Minnesota and commutes into the city every day. For work ethic, he's a daily morning fisherman, who raises four sons under the age of 10, runs a popular gastro pub in north Minneapolis, and now helms Upton 43, our most ambitious local restaurant. And for heritage, he grew up in his grandparents' restaurant, Kaffe Stuga in Harris, Minnesota, a staunchly Swedish and Scandinavian eating institution where he was practically weaned on lingonberry jam. But at Upton 43, Harcey gets a bit more adventurous than his grandparents did. He ferments lettuce, he chars pickled cucumbers, he roasts pork chops in hay and plucks västerbotten cheese off of your grandpa's plate and serves it with granola and blueberries. Does it always work? Nope. But it often does, and he's staunchly committed to the idea that people who stick to their dreams are happiest. Harcey dreams of the red of Blodkorv (that's blood sausage to you) against Swedish blue, and we all get to step inside, marvel at his dreams, and then devour our dinner.

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Food & Drink

ute, even in New York. It's too easy to get delectable food at a reasonable price while wearing jeans and sneakers. Why even bother with finery anymore? Bother because dining, at its best, is a transporting experience filled with drama, theater, and surprise. Patrick Atanalian and Michael Kutscheid of Sanctuary know all that, thanks to decades in the dining world harkening back to a time when the terms "fine" and "dine" were almost synonymous. You'll see the imprint of their pedigree all over Sanctuary, a category-defying lair where gargoyles peek out from behind high-backed chairs, and a real-deal French chef and proper maitre d' make dining an experience far beyond scooping food off a plate. A grown-up wine list, a menu where one might encounter sea urchin, turtle soup, and rattlesnake, and a server who can recite specials from memory are a few reasons why you should turn to this eccentric marvel when you want not just to eat, but to dine.

BEST RESTAURANT, MINNEAPOLIS

Alma

528 University Ave. SE
Minneapolis
612-379-4909

almampls.com

Eighteen years is a long time in business, an even longer time spent reaching for new heights. It's easier getting into a groove and thrumming along, but Alma chef/owner Alex Roberts is such a smooth operator that he overturned the whole damn apple cart, filled it back up with a surprising cornucopia, then gave it a new paint job and some spinning gold rims. First, Alma got a much-needed remodel of its old workaday dining room. Now everything is airier, sleeker, more modern, while still maintaining a timeless spirit. Then Alma added a hotel, of all things, seven tidy sleeping rooms appointed with artistic amenities and fixtures, perfect in their snug, orderly beauty. And then! Alma tacked on a more casual cafe, with a long, sleek bar, coffee, pastries, tartines, and cocktails. Which is to say nothing of the cooking, which is better than it's ever been, having already been the best. Enjoy a three-course prix fixe menu of such dreamy dishes as soft egg and caviar with black truffle vinaigrette; sweet onion agnolotti with wild mushroom ragu; and poblano-crusted sturgeon. Alma is in a league of its own. We'd ask what they'll think of next, but they seem to have already thought of it all.

Readers' Choice: Spoon and Stable

BEST RESTAURANT, ST. PAUL

The Lexington

1096 Grand Ave.
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651-289-4990

thelexmn.com

Three of the Twin Cities' finest restaurants recently shuttered in rapid-fire succession: La Belle Vie, Vincent, Brasserie Zentral — boom, boom, boom. Casual reigns supreme, and your good clothes are getting dusty. So where to go when your parents are celebrating 50 years, or when you simply want to feel like you're somebody special doing something special? The Lexington. The remodel of this St. Paul institution was some of the biggest (and most drawn-out) local restaurant news in 2016. But the long-lost Lex is finally re-opened, and it's as elegant as ever. There's just the right amount of dark wood, low light, servers in fitted black-and-white attire. The devil is in the details here, with formal touches that we haven't seen much of in a while. Welcome back, coat check, welcome back, heavy-bottomed lowball glasses, welcome back, big, sturdy menu. There's nothing flimsy here. Everything is built for the ages, and built especially to welcome you on your special day.

Readers' Choice: Meritage

BEST FANCY DESSERT

Spoon and Stable

211 N. First St.
Minneapolis
612-224-9850

spoonandstable.com

Spoon and Stable's Diane Yang is regarded as a master of desserts in this town. Her technical wizardry can alchemize sugar into crumbles and crèmes, whipped clouds and shards of brittle. But her real gift is in the delicate balancing of flavors, in knowing when a dessert should punch and when it should purr. Each plate arrives as composed and thoughtful as a painstakingly pored over canvas. That is a given in Yang's world. But while the Black Sesame Crumble openly plies you with the familiar delights of chocolate custard, peanut brittle, and streaks of caramel, the Honey and Cream Cake poses a subtler pleasure: a delicate, layered slice of cake edged with cubes of wine-poached pear, topped with a quenelle of sweetened condensed milk ice cream, and then cloaked in a mildly sweet cream. Lest you think dessert is optional, the bill at Spoon and Stable comes with a tin of petit fours — mini macarons, bite-sized biscotti, wafers of white chocolate brittle

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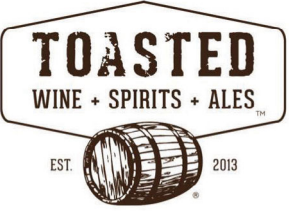
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BEST SUBURBAN EATS

Lela

5601 W. 78th St.
Bloomington
952-656-5980

lelarestaurant.com

Peripatetic chef Stewart Woodman, of the late, lamented Heidi's, is out to prove that creative food served in stylish surroundings is not limited to restaurants in the cities. Lela, attached to the Sheraton Hotel in Bloomington, is where he takes his stand. The dining room is attractive and modern in a fancy-hotel kind of way, but the food is light years away from typical hotel restaurant fare. Indeed, Lela bills itself as a neighborhood restaurant, and if your neighborhood is the Highway 100/494 loop, you're in luck. The lobster deviled eggs are worth the drive all on their own, but leave room for entrees like braised lamb spaghetti featuring house-made pasta. For meat lovers, there's a range of steaks from a six-ounce petit tenderloin all the way up to an 18-ounce ribeye. To really experience Woodman's cooking, go for the chef's counter omakase; limited to 10 guests, it's a seven-course dinner with wine pairings, prepared and served by the man himself.

Readers' Choice: Travail Kitchen & Amusements

BEST SKYWAY EATS

Kadai Indian

601 Marquette Ave.
Minneapolis
256-472-2545

kadaimsp.com

In an overly corporatized and branded dining landscape, you gotta love Kadai, a skyway pit stop where it's all about the cooking. This real-deal Indian kitchen specializes in set meals served on little trays that look a lot like the ones used in school cafeterias. Actually, you can grab them and go, or stay and enjoy the room's fluorescence; either way, all of your attention will be on the hot, fresh food. Like most Indian buffets, Kadai offers a rotating selection of today's bests, but this is no steam-table operation. Every dish is uniquely prepared, like chicken biryani, with rice grains individual as snowflakes, or rich, thick, golden, and bright chicken tikka, or fragrant and bubbly naan. There's even plenty of spiced and herbaceous vegetarian-friendly dals, lentils, and vegetables, each of them enough to make you question the wisdom of that

sad skyway salad in the rubber-banded clamshell. Make the right choice.

BEST RESTAURANT FOR ROMANCE

Rinata

2451 Hennepin Ave.
Minneapolis
612-374-8998

rinatarestaurant.com

For a night of whispering sweet nothings while nibbling on sweet somethings, you can always turn to a classic Italian restaurant. Rinata is classic, but not corny. The decor is all Tuscan romance, with walls the color of reddish stucco and real candles glowing on the tables and in the wall sconces. The menu features all the reliable delights — pasta, salad, thin-crust pizzas — done with a graceful touch that never veers into gut-bomb territory. Best of all, Rinata's central Hennepin location belies its hidden-gem status. You can almost always get a table here, which is perfect because spontaneity is the essence of romance.

Readers' Choice: W.A. Frost

BEST KEPT SECRET

Alimama's Sambusa

690 Seventh St. E.
St. Paul
612-323-0069

sambusaland.com

Hidden in plain sight, Somali cooking is our own local best kept secret. Heavily spiced stewed meats over fragrant rice, curry goat, flat chapati bread, and slow-cooked beans and vegetables make this food not only delectable, but healthful. If you like Italian, check out Somali dishes that make use of that country's colonial influence on the cookery, like pasta with a thicker, spicier version of the marinara you already love. Get all of it and more at Alimama's, situated in a hidden lunch counter at Metro State University. Hitting the books was never a more tempting proposition. Don't let the college students have all the fun. Bonus tip: Alimama's sambusas are our pick for the very best in town.

BEST NEW RESTAURANT

Young Joni

165 13th Ave. NE
Minneapolis
612-345-5719

youngjoni.com

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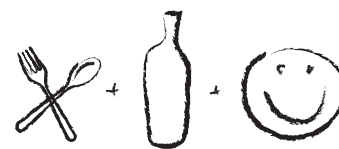
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harsh reality of the world. They offer a fantasy with luxe materials you'd like to surround yourself with all the time but instead you pay a premium to do so for a couple of hours. You want your favorite restaurant to have a way better playlist and sound system than you have, a way more stocked bar, and good looking and polite people who will smile at you and preempt your wants and needs. And that's just for starters. Ann Kim gets that, and this is what makes her such a successful restaurateur. At Young Joni, Kim's third effort after Pizzeria Lola and Hello Pizza, all of the above fall into place. Kim works tirelessly to make sure the entire operation runs smoothly, deliciously, while maintaining an air of cool sophistication. Above all, Young Joni is imbued with Kim's heart and soul: It's a pizzeria, it's Korean-ish, it's an architectural stunner with a sneaky little bar in the back alley just for good measure. It's a long wait to get a prime reservation. And it's worth it.

Readers' Choice: Hi-Lo Diner

BEST CHEAP EATS

Babani's Kurdish

32 Fillmore Ave. E.
St. Paul
651-602-9964

babanis.com

The best cheap eating doesn't feel as though you've eaten cheaply. At Babani's you can grub for a fair price, and are treated like family at America's first Kurdish restaurant. Family-operated for over 20 years, Babani's has a newer, bigger space in St. Paul for bigger, brighter eating experiences. And it is an experience. Kurdish cooking offers the familiar flavors of the Middle East faves you know and love, with heavy use of legumes, rice, grilled meats, eggplant, and goat cheeses. But the preparations are all their own: wheat dumplings stuffed with spiced meat and deep-fried; red-sauced eggplant almost edging into Italian territory; lemony yogurt soup you could use as currency. Delicacies like these can be had for the eye-popping price tag of around \$8 at lunch (includes salad), and about \$12 at dinner (includes soup or salad).

BEST MEDITERRANEAN

Moroccan Flavors

Midtown Global Market
920 E. Lake St.
Minneapolis
651-410-0361

moroccanflavorsmpls.com

The idea of Mediterranean cuisine calls to mind Greece and Turkey most vividly,

and ingredients like lemon, olives, grape leaves, lamb, and wine. And those are all very delicious, but your Mediterranean experience would be tragically hemmed in if you didn't also think of braised meats, tagines, apricots, and plums. The food of the Maghreb region, which includes Algeria, Libya, Morocco, and Tunisia, is on full, glorious display at Midtown Global Market's Moroccan Flavors, a tiny stall that boasts a simple yet powerful menu. Couscous or turmeric rice is topped with your choice of tender stewed vegetables, braised chicken, or braised beef. A salad sampler is a colorful array of tomato and cucumber, roasted beets, spicy cauliflower, grilled eggplant, marinated olives, and preserved orange and lemon. Wash it all down Feast on the side of the Mediterranean you've been missing.

BEST ETHIOPIAN AND ERITREAN

Ghebre's

512 Snelling Ave.
St. Paul
651-493-4324

Time was, Fasika and the late, great Blue Nile had a stranglehold on the East African genre in the Twin Cities. These days, there are a lot more options for injera, tibs, and wot addicts. We like Ghebre's for its family-owned vibe, with Genet Ghebre applying the same exacting cooking skills learned running restaurants in Africa. It's nothing fancy, but you'll get the feeling that you're dining in someone's home, which, essentially, you are. They're also serving East African breakfasts like Kitcha (think pancake), fit-fit (shredded flat bread with spiced clarified butter and hot sauce), and ful (heavily spiced fava beans). Ghebre's is also a haven for vegetarians and vegans — the kitchen will happily cook without the clarified butter. They aim to please, and their pleasant vibe bounces all over the sunny space.

BEST ITALIAN

Mucci's

786 Randolph Ave.
St. Paul
651-330-2245

muccisitalian.com

Think of every clichéd thing you love about Italian eating — the mile-high lasagne, red sauce, pillowy meatballs the size of your fist, tiramisu — and make them so delicious that they manage to transcend cliché, every one of them so luminous and



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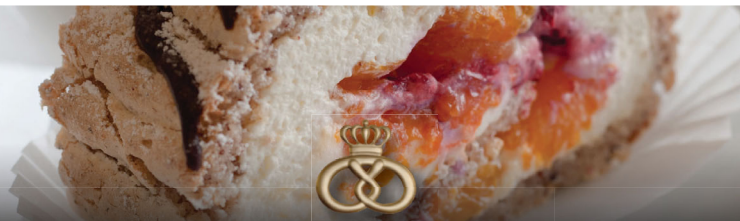
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Food & Drink

carefully done, it's like having them for the very first time. Mucci's is the brainchild of local restaurant genius Tim Niver, who grew up on this sort of Italian eating on the East Coast. You can taste it: The red sauce sings like it was wooden-spooned by Nonni all night and then all day before it hit your plate. Inexpensive red wine flows freely, and Prosecco flows freer yet: on tap. Possibly the best part about it is the unassuming room, painted black with little more frippery than old-school red globe candle holders flickering against the wine goblet you've slopped marinara upon. What else is it that you want in your Italian? The restaurant sits in an old St. Paul neighborhood and shares an intersection with a liquor store and a church, completing the trifecta for everything you need to live a good and upstanding life.

Readers' Choice: Bar La Grassa

BEST STEAK

Best Steak House

860 University Ave. W.
 St. Paul
 651-228-0310
mmmsteak.com

Whether you're the first, 100th, or 500th person in line (yeah, Best Steak House serves about 500 steaks daily), you won't be disappointed at this everyman's beef cafe on University Avenue. Poised to be passed onto a third generation, the family-owned shop has been hurling steaks onto cafeteria trays for over 40 years. The Hatzistamoulos clan is so well suited to the trade that at least one of them has declared he wants a "hearse to carry me out of here." Matriarch Dimitria still works at the restaurant daily, and though her sons have been sworn to secrecy when it comes to her age, the math says she can't be a moment under 80. All told, the family's combined experience easily calculates into the centuries. If you want a cigar bar, a single-malt scotch selection, or a \$200 check, you'll have to seek steak elsewhere. If you want the opposite of pretense, put a 20 in your wallet and head to the steakhouse that has been trying to tell you it's the best all along.

Readers' Choice: Manny's Steakhouse

BEST EGG ROLLS

Pho Tau Bay

2837 Nicollet Ave.
 Minneapolis
 612-874-6030
photaubay.us

Egg rolls are such a ubiquitous fixture of pan-Asian dining, you probably don't

remember much about the last one you ate. You ordered it, you ate it, you moved along with your meal. But Pho Tau Bay's egg rolls are different, and memorably so. An ample heap of seasoned pork and veggies gets hand-rolled and deep-fried to golden perfection — crunchy on the outside and chewy just beneath the surface. They come two to an order but they're big enough to make a hefty appetizer to whatever else you've got coming your way. This time, you won't forget how your meal began.

BEST CHINESE

Dumpling

4004 Minnehaha Ave. S.
 Minneapolis
 612-724-8795
dumplingmpls.com

We Midwesterners cling to Cantonese the way we cling to our burgers, fries, and mashed potatoes and gravy. In other words, the neighborhood Chinese takeout joint is pure American comfort, and don't fuss with it too much, please. So now that "second generation" Chinese is upon us, how lucky we are to have Dumpling, where they love the corner chow mein place as much as the rest of us do. Bunbob Chhun and James Munson dreamed of a place where they could get the classics — lo mein, beef with broccoli, egg rolls — but better. They sell all of those here, in the old Ming's Palace space, where they've preserved Ming's wings recipe. But now with your egg rolls, get a Mei Mei's Collins (named after Mei Mei Wong, original co-owner of Ming's) with sake, snap peas, lime, and Squirt. Don't be fooled by modernist touches, though. Dumpling is a true-to-American-Chinese place through and through. You can taste it in the sweet and sour shrimp, the cream cheese wontons, the handmade dumplings. It's the neighborhood Chinese restaurant, just a little bit better, which makes it the best.

Readers' Choice: Rainbow Chinese

BEST VIETNAMESE

MT Noodles

8459 W. Broadway Ave.
 Brooklyn Park
 763-315-3055
mntoodles.com

Inside the chest of Anh Bui beats the heart of a true-blue chef, a woman who can only be happy if her hands are plunged deep into noodles or her fingers are nimbly snipping herbs. According to Bui's extended family, they're long past the financial obligation to run the small but mighty strip-mall restaurant in Brooklyn Park. Instead, it's

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elnuevorodeorestaurant.com

Food & Drink

their matriarch's one living plea that MT Noodles remains open, so she may cook as long as she's able. We should feel grateful they're honoring her wishes. Here you will find some of the finest pho and banh mi, but also less common and more complex preparations like a homestyle broken rice dish of grilled marinated pork, shredded barbecue pork, steamed egg loaf, Chinese sausage, and shrimp in a crispy beancurd wrap. That's all in one dish, and it's a dish for which true enthusiasts of Vietnamese food will trek across town. Also try shrimp cakes pretty as decorated pastries, and egg noodle soup with a side of fried chicken.

Readers' Choice: Quang Restaurant

BEST PHO

Lotus Restaurant

113 Grant St. W.
Minneapolis
612-870-1218

thelotusrestaurant.com

A good bowl of pho is the ultimate comfort food, and Lotus Restaurant, a diner-style Vietnamese institution tucked into a busy intersection of Loring Park, knows that comfort is cleanliness, friendly servers, and steaming dishes brought straight from wok to table. Pho comes classically dressed in bean sprouts, basil, lime, and jalapeno peppers, in sizes of "perfect portion" and "extra large because it's freezing outside and nothing else will make me feel human again." The beef is sliced so tenderly it cooks itself in the broth. The meatballs are quality and the barbecue pork is hard to beat. Diners eat beneath the benevolent gazes of the handsome set of brothers who own the place. Quick and consistent on the takeout, the Lotus is regularly packed with long lines of hungry, double-parked diners, and is the type of Vietnamese restaurant where actual Vietnamese people eat because it looks and feels like home. An Uptown location recently opened, too.

BEST RAMEN

Tori Ramen

161 Victoria St. N.
St. Paul
651-340-4955

toriramen.com

In Tokyo, ramen is a fast food, one that's meant to be consumed in 20 minutes or so, paired with an almost-slammed beer. You sit, you slurp, then you get on your merry way so the postage stamp-sized dining room can accommodate the next diner. Tori Ramen models itself after this style of ramen house. Order at the bar —

there's no table service here — and pay when you do. Want another drink? You figure it out. Your bowl will then arrive tout de suite and piping hot, made with long-simmered stocks that are in full view from your perch. The stocks are incredibly rich, some almost opaque, but there's no pig whatsoever served here. It's a bold move, since many traditional Japanese ramens begin with pork, but Tori is convinced they can rock with no swine. So far, we're so convinced that we are deepest in love with the vegetarian version, which derives all of its umami from burdock, seaweed, and fermented mushroom.

Readers' Choice: Ramen Kazama

BEST KOREAN

Sole Korean

684 Snelling Ave
St. Paul
651-644-2068

solecafe.weebly.com

Korean flavors like gochujang and kimchee are popping up on menus across the Twin Cities lately, everywhere from your local diner to the supermarket sandwich counter. Yet for a complete taste of true Korean cooking, you'll have to head to Sole Korean, a homestyle place that was there long before hip kids got ahold of "rice bowls" and started plying them with barbecued meats and soft-cooked eggs. Proprietor and chef Kimberly Firnstahl is known for her no-nonsense style and attendant glee when it comes to burning the living hell out of glib diners' mouths. Just when they think they can handle her spice levels: "I'm going to kill them!" she'll declare. Consider yourself warned, then get a taste of her Midas touch with kimchee soup with bobbing pillows of tofu; yugaejang, with the fluttering lace of egg playing garnish to beef stock and brisket; and broiled mackerel in a sauce the color of fiery red hell. But this food is heaven — if you die of capsaicin overload, you'll at least die happy.

Readers' Choice: The Rabbit Hole

BEST SEAFOOD

Kyatchi

3758 Nicollet Ave.
Minneapolis
612-236-4429

kyatchi.com

Any place that tucks the Monterey Bay Aquarium Seafood Watch pamphlet in its check booklet is clearly thinking about seafood in important ways. Kyatchi prides itself on using sustainable and seasonal



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Food & Drink



fish and fruits de mer in everything from sushi to the fried fish sandwich. Backing up Kyatchi's mission are local fishmongers extraordinaire the Fish Guys, who are committed to buying only from fisheries and farms with ethical, environmentally friendly practices. If all of that sounds about as delicious as an ecology term paper, trust us: The fish tastes better when it's cared for this deeply. And if you're going to enjoy it raw, you want it done right.

BEST SUSHI

PinkU

20 University Ave. NE

Minneapolis

612-584-3167

pinkujapanese.com

Sushi isn't meant to be only a ceremonial, fetishistic, pristine adventure. It can be, but often the meal is more about sustenance. It's dinner. Thanks to PinkU, we can all enjoy a little more sushi, a little more often, and it doesn't have to be the mystery fish at some all-you-can-eat joint. This is the real deal, presented in an immaculate counter-service package that doesn't leave authenticity in the dust. Co-owner John Sugimura is part Japanese, regularly returns to his homeland to "check" himself, and reports that his grandmother would be proud of PinkU. He serves all of the greatest hits he perfected in a past career as a personal chef: spicy tuna on crispy rice, seared salmon fat rolls, jumbo crispy shrimp over radish noodles, all served at a fair price in a mod, gleaming package, replete with silver cafeteria trays. Local and Japanese beer and good wine round out the experience. Fair prices, superior service, and unique surrounds make this not only our best sushi spot of the moment, but one of our favorite places, period.

Readers' Choice: Fuji Ya

BEST THAI

Thai Cafe

371 University Ave. W.

St. Paul

651-225-8231

thaicafemn.com

This one-woman kitchen produces some of the best Thai we've had anywhere, despite what its nondescript University Avenue storefront might telegraph. Listen for the knocking sound of the chef's big patina'd mortar and pestle, where the makings of mouth-singeing green papaya salads and laab are brought together. This is also ground zero for fresh curries, whole fish dishes, and all manner of soups, from the fresh thom kha to various noodle creations. But hands down the best reason to go to Thai Cafe is the revelatory sour pork ribs, a fermented fatty epiphany with peppers, lime, and garlic that must be had to be believed. These are as sure an addiction as Thai Cafe's mile-high iced coffees and mango sticky rice dessert.

BEST INDIAN

Gorkha Palace

23 Fourth St. NE

Minneapolis

612-886-3451

gorkhapalace.com

Gorkha Palace serves a fine palak paneer, simmered in creamy tomato sauce, and a spot-on chicken biryani. But it does so, so much more with its menu of Indian, Nepali, and Tibetan cuisine. Gorkha's signature momo dumplings are juicy, and filled with your choice of free-range turkey, grass-fed bison, or a blend of spiced vegetables. It's not a proper visit without an order, served with lick-the-ramekin tomato chutney.

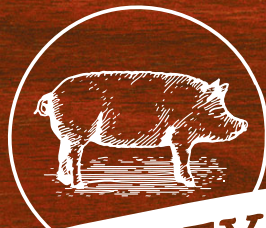


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BEST MEXICAN

Homi

864 University Ave. W.
St. Paul
651-222-0655

homirestaurant.com

In a world with so many grab-and-go burritos and sticky-icky bastardizations of Mexican food (taco shells made of fried chicken, why God?) it's sweet salvation to arrive at Homi. This is abuela's kitchen where everything is slow, low, and proper. We're evangelists for Hortencia Reyes' (Homi is a portmanteau of Hortencia and Miguel, her husband's name) green enchiladas, where the tortillas are lacy, and the cheese gets out of the way of the delectable, piquant chile sauce. Pozole is rich and thick as any stew anywhere, and will cure your cold, your hangover, your heartache. The guacamole is made to order, not scooped out of yesterday's prep, and the avocado pit accompanies your order for proof. Tamales are steamed in banana leaves instead of corn husks, and a closer whiff of Caribbean Mexico you will not get unless the sea is on the horizon. It's not — only University Avenue, the Green Line, and a surefire ferry to flavortown.

Readers' Choice: Boca Chica
Restaurante Mexicano y Cantina

BEST TACOS

El Primo

10 W. Lake St.
Minneapolis

Not only does El Primo boldly serve tacos in the open air almost all year round, they do it with some of the best service and lowest prices. (Prices rise as the thermometer's mercury does, though it's only by less than a dollar per taco.) This humble truck parked in a south Minneapolis K-Mart lot serves asada, cabeza, carnitas, lengua, chicharron, sesos, barbacoa, chorizo, al pastor, and suadero on rotating days. With so many options, it's wise to just point at the guy eagerly scarfing his on the curb and say you'll have what he's having. Once you have your tacos, know that neither of the hot sauces, one red and one green, is to be underestimated. By which we mean grab

a bottle in each hand and go for broke. It doesn't pay to be eating tacos on the street if you're not going to enjoy a fierce chile high while you do it.

Readers' Choice: Taco Cat

BEST INTERNATIONAL GROCERY

Dragon Star Supermarket

8020 Brooklyn Blvd.
Brooklyn Park
763-315-4322

Hidden in plain sight in the inner-ring suburbs is the sprawling Dragon Star Supermarket, a mecca of cheap Asian, African, and Mexican foods. The traffic this store gets makes it so the fruits and produce are always lush, and the meats — including cuts specific to international dishes that most American stores don't stock — are freshly packed. (Think pork belly, pig heads, kidneys, and crawfish.) Here you can find half a dozen types of wonton skins, and all the grass jelly drinks and Pocky flavors to transport your taste buds home. Other features include ready-to-eat takeout, a bakery, a liquor aisle, and a gift shop. Let Dragon Star show you how Asian grocery stores can be more than fortresses of MSG-infused ramen noodle boxes.

BEST PLACE TO BUY LOCAL FOODS

Food Building

1401 Marshall St. NE
Minneapolis
612-545-5555

foodbuilding.com

Kieran Folliard, of Two Gingers fame, opened Food Building in northeast Minneapolis in 2016 as an incubator where local food producers could focus on their craft. The building is open to the public Tuesday through Saturday and provides a fascinating glimpse into the commitment to traditional methods practiced by the two current residents, Red Table Meat Co. and Baker's Field Flour & Bakery. Sadly, one of the original businesses, the Lone Grazer Creamery, recently succumbed to the economics of being a small producer in a Walmart world. Tuesday through Friday you can take a self-guided tour through the cavernous 26,000-square-foot space and watch Steve Horton milling flour and baking, and Mike Phillips and his team creating world-class salumi (insider's tip: Red Table Meat gets its whole hogs on Fridays). On Saturday, for \$15 you can take a 45-minute tour that includes tastings. Then it's just a few steps to Draft Horse, the Food Building restaurant, which features

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BITE, SIP, AHHH

FOOD & DRINK NEWSLETTER

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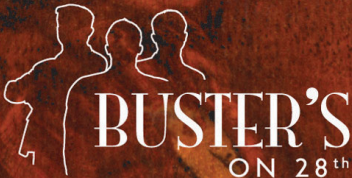
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Food & Drink

dishes made with ingredients produced onsite and also sells those ingredients for you to take home.

BEST FARMERS MARKET

St. Paul Farmers Market

290 E. Fifth St.
St. Paul
651-227-8101

stpaulfarmersmarket.com

Cruise the 167 stalls of the downtown St. Paul Farmers Market on a Saturday in June and you'll find not only a bounty of fresh produce, but everything from eggs and cheese to dog treats and soap. You can also snag a good cup of coffee, great deals on bedding plants, and recipes for unfamiliar Hmong greens from the vendors. But what really sets the market apart is its commitment to locally sourced products. Food sold here must be grown or produced within a 50-mile radius. The market has been in its current location since 1982, and both the market and the neighborhood have seen lots of change since then. Lowertown is booming, with the new St. Paul Saints stadium across the street, hot restaurants nearby, and the light rail running along the southern edge of the market. All that development can make parking a bit of a hassle, but chatting with the farmer who picked your corn that morning makes it worth the trip.

BEST NEIGHBORHOOD GROCERY

Sentryz Market

1612 Second St. NE
612-781-3484

sentryzmarket.com

A woman waved over to an empty checkout line finds a shelf full of items blocking her way. Noticing the obstruction, a Sentryz employee deadpans: "Oh, you can just move that. It's Sentryz." Everyone laughs, because everyone here is in on the joke. Sentryz, in a part of Northeast without many grocery store options, is its own kind of place, with its own rules. That includes a beer, wine, and liquor aisle, right there inside the market, a special allowance "grandfathered" to Sentryz years ago. The Sentryz family, now in its third generation of ownership, puts its legal exception to good use, stocking the beverage section with the good stuff — an impressive selection of craft and macro beers, spirits from near and far, mixers and bitters. And with a full grocery store of food items just steps away, everything you need for your next party is all in one place. It's different. It's Sentryz.

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THE NEW SOUTHWEST

Saguaro brings a well-balanced take on traditional Mexican to South Minneapolis

Is it possible to take the rich culinary traditions of Southern Arizona and Northern Mexico, add a dash of Lebanese brightness and a healthy dollop of down-home Minnesota sensibility, and produce a dining experience that is at once crave-worthy, inventive and comforting?

That is the question that owner Mandy Abdo Sheahan and chef Rich Harrison attempt to answer every day at Saguaro, their cozy neighborhood gem in South Minneapolis.

"We call it Az-Mex," Abdo explains of her restaurant's style, admitting the term was invented to describe Saguaro's unique blend of flavors. "It's lighter and more subtle than traditional Tex-Mex, richer and more robust than Cal-Mex. It's complex but very approachable—a lot like our inspiration."

That inspiration is Abdo's grandmother, who was born to a Lebanese family in Arizona and grew up in Tucson, then transplanted to Minnesota where she raised a large, rambunctious and multi-talented family on Minnehaha Parkway, just a stone's-throw from Saguaro's current location at 53rd & Lyndale.

IT'S ALL ABOUT FLAVOR

Saguaro's food is familiar but elevated; comforting but skillfully executed. The menu's core is tacos—a nice variety of quality ingredients well-seasoned and attractively presented on fresh, locally-made tortillas (your choice of corn or flour). The options rotate with the season, so occasionally favorites will fall off the menu (closed caption to Chef Rich: bring back the roasted mushroom!), but there is always a nice array of choices ranging from traditional (steak, chicken) to adventurous (octopus!).

Beyond tacos, the menu offers a generous slate of entrees that include classic Mexican dishes—fajitas, enchiladas, and the best tamales in Minnesota (a subjective but easily defensible opinion)—as well as items that are just plain fun—the shrimp/scallops and grits is a rich and savory non-sequitur that somehow works.

The creativity doesn't stop with the food. Saguaro takes advantage of its full liquor license to craft a number of margaritas that pair perfectly with their distinctive cuisine.

A FAMILY AFFAIR

That Abdo has managed to marshal a welcoming and successful restaurant in the Twin Cities might be more genetics than luck or skill. Her mother (who is co-owner of Saguaro) has been satisfying hungry Twin Cities diners in one form or another since the 1970's when she ran a pita bread sandwich shop on St. Anthony Main.

Between her father (Nicollet Island Inn) and her brothers (My Burger) the family has got your food choices covered from casual to fine dining.

And in her spare time, Abdo and her cousin Tina can be found at the Great Minnesota Get-Together doling out slabs of bacon-on-a-stick to an eager and drooling horde at Big Fat Bacon.

But if you're looking for everyday dining that offers complex but well-balanced flavors and quality, scratch-made dishes all wrapped up in a cozy neighborhood setting, Saguaro is hard to beat.

Throw in a margarita or two and you might have the perfect dinner.



CHIMICHANGA

A mountain of beans, cheese, herbed rice, salsa, and a choice of protein wrapped in a tortilla and deep-fried

paired with

PRICKLY PEAR MARGARITA

Jalapeno-infused Tequila, orange liqueur, prickly pear nectar, house-made sour, served over ice

DUCK SOPES

Confit of duck served on pillowy sweet potato cakes

paired with

THE DESPERADO

Crystal Tequila, Grand Marnier, lime, Agave Nectar, served up

ROASTED CARROT TACO

Tri-color Carrots, Spiced Marscapone, Arugula, Carrot Greens

paired with

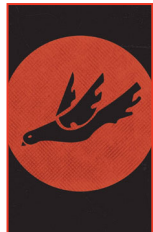
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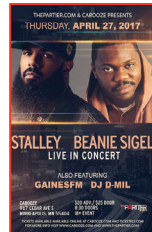
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W/ CITIES AVIV, TOUCHE
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APRIL 20



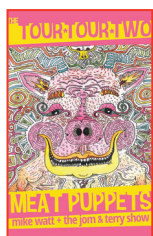
COMMUNICATION
BREAKDOWN
WISH YOU WERE HOLY
A NIGHT OF PINK FLOYD
& LED ZEPPELIN COVERS
APRIL 21



CABOOZE & PARTIER PRESENT
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BEANIE
SIGEL**
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APRIL 27



CABOOZE & LN PRESENT
GNASH
SLEEPOVER TOUR
W/ SWEATER BEATS,
MAX, GOODY GRACE &
MORE!
APRIL 30



CABOOZE & FIRST AVE PRESENT
**THE MEAT
PUPPETS**
W/ MIKE WATT, THE
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MAY 4



**THE PANCAKES
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MAY 6



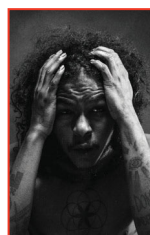
JELLYROLL
W/ SPECIAL GUEST TBA
MAY 10



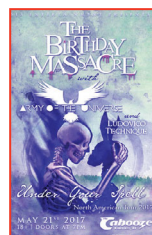
CABOOZE & FIRST FLEET PRESENT
THE LACS!
AMERICAN
REBELLION TOUR
MAY 12



CABOOZE & LN PRESENT
RAE LYNN
MAY 13



CABOOZE & LN PRESENT
AB-SOUL
MAY 16



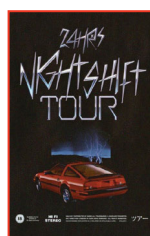
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MASSACRE**
W/ ARMY OF THE
UNIVERSE & LUDOVICO
TECHNIQUE
MAY 21



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W/ ART OF DYING &
JEREMY WILLET
MAY 28



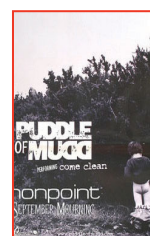
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W/ SATSANG
AUGUST 18



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AUGUST 19



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TICKET OUTLETS: THE JOINT BAR, ELECTRIC FETUS, DOWN IN THE VALLEY, DISCLAND, KNOW NAME RECORDS, MILL CITY SOUND

A LIST

FRIDAY Envision hits the catwalk P. 185

SATURDAY Awesome bongs at Gamut P. 187

SUNDAY Night Vale visits Pantages P. 191

WEDNESDAY 4.19

ART/GALLERY

SIGNS OF RESISTANCE: PROTEST SIGN SHOW

514 STUDIOS

It's time to up your protest-sign game with the help of Twin Cities designers who are elevating the aesthetic and information dissemination of the resistance. In anticipation of the March for Science on April 22, several local agencies — including 514 Studios, This Is Folly, Woychick Design, and J. O'Brien Design — are hosting an event that features professional-quality protest signs, all for sale for \$40. Make your voice heard on issues you care about, such as science, climate change, human rights, and political corruption. Proceeds from sales and donations help the ACLU of Minnesota fight the good fight for civil rights. At the reception, enjoy Argentine treats from DelSur Empanadas Food Truck and refreshment from Bent Paddle Brewing Co. 6 to 9 p.m. Free. 514 N. Third St., Minneapolis; 612-520-1514. —SHEILA REGAN

THURSDAY 4.20

FASHION

FASHION WEEK MN

VARIOUS LOCATIONS

Despite the occasional snowstorm, spring is technically here in Minnesota. That means we can start coveting spring threads, even if we can't wear them on chillier days. Ushering in a new season is Fashion Week MN, a 10-day celebration that includes glam parties, pop-up shops, runway shows, and other happenings. Things kick off on Thursday with #MinnstaFashion at the Foshay from 7 to 10 p.m. The interactive, social-media-themed event will feature a fashion show by couture resale boutique Luxury Garage Sale and local emerging designers. Folks can shop and sip at Minneapolis Craft Market, with plenty of locally made goods and beer on tap. It's at Modist Brewing on Saturday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. I AM Fabulous will honor the beauty and fashion of Minnesotans



Kozol by Stacie Yokiell fuses fashion with dance at Gem Salon and Spa this Saturday for Fashion Week MN.

JAY LARSON

of all ages at Hewing Hotel on Sunday. Cliché will once again take it to the street for Cliché Crosswalk from 2 to 5 p.m. on Sunday. As models walk around the block, revelers can shop inside the south Minneapolis boutique. Other happenings this week include Joynoelle at Aria, Black Magik Woman III, Envision, and Fashion Revolution, a festival within a festival examining the fashion industry's record on fair labor and sustainability, and how you can shop ethically. For a complete list of happenings — and there are many — visit fashionweekmn.com.

Through April 29 —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

ART

THIRD THURSDAY: NERD THURSDAY

MINNEAPOLIS INSTITUTE OF ART

Get your geek on this Thursday at Mia's monthly series. There will be plenty of things to do and explore. Just in time for spring candy season, the Grown-Up

Club will examine the merits of Peep-based dioramas. Test out the museum's latest tech projects, or try your hand at virtual reality beer pong. Stretch your knowledge at geeky trivia, sing your way through PowerPoint Karaoke, and get a workout doing yoga poses inspired by Guillermo Del Toro's *Crimson Peak*. Folks interested in checking out Del Toro's "At Home with Monsters" for free can sign up to become a Mia member (also free). Tickets sell out fast, so head online or call the museum to reserve a spot. 6 to 9 p.m. Free. 2400 Third Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-870-3131. —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

BARHOPPING

MST3K SCREENING NIGHT

BAUHAUS BREW LABS

In the 1990s, *Mystery Science Theater 3000* turned trash-talking movies into an art form. The program triumphantly returned last week after a record-

breaking Kickstarter campaign, an original cast reunion, and lots of online excitement. These days, it's Jonah Ray who is trapped in space with delightfully sarcastic robots. Together, they will watch a lot of really shitty movies, as evil scientists — campily played by Felicia Day and Patton Oswalt — study the impact they have on the crew. This Thursday, Bauhaus Brew Labs will binge-watch a handful of the brand-new episodes on Netflix, snarking away over beers. MidNord Empanada Truck will be on hand with eats. 6 p.m. Free. 1315 Tyler St. NE, Minneapolis; 612-276-6911. —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

FASHION

FASHION REVOLUTION MN

VARIOUS LOCATIONS

Love clothes but don't want to support oppression? Fashion

CONTINUED ON PAGE 182 ►



LONE STAR SPIRITS

"A ROLICKING GOOD GHOST STORY"
— NEW YORK TIMES CRITICS' PICK

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PHOTO BY WILLIAM CLARK

A-LIST

READING

DUDLEY RIGGS

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
BOOKSTORE

Long before he founded comedy and improv hub Brave New Workshop, Dudley Riggs was indoctrinated into showbiz.

You could even say he was born into it: His parents were circus performers, and incorporated the infant Riggs into their act because they didn't have a babysitter. The intrepid youngster became a vaudeville performer, then a circus flier, experiences that would inform his third — and most illustrious — showbiz career as the creator of "instant theater" and the founder of the Brave New Workshop, the longest-running satirical theater in the country. When Riggs moved to Minneapolis, he recognized that "...what this town needed was good bread, espresso, and satire." He succeeded in bringing all three to the skeptical, restrained Minnesota milieu. Riggs chronicles his creative evolution in his new book, *Flying Funny: My Life Without a Net*, which features a foreword from BNW alum and current U.S. Sen. Al Franken. This delightful memoir takes readers behind the scenes of circus life and into the mind of a man who forever changed the nature of nightlife in Minneapolis. 4 p.m. Free. 300 Washington Ave. SE, Minneapolis; 612-625-6000. —ERICA RIVERA



COURTESY OF DUDLEY RIGGS



2017 EXHIBITS



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Opening June 12:
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Service and Sacrifice:
Northfield in the Great War



Sept. 6 - 10: Defeat of Jesse James

408 DIVISION STREET, NORTHFIELD MN | NORTHFIELDHISTORY.ORG

CONTINUED FROM THURSDAY ►

Revolution MN is for you. The series, part of a global festival, marks the anniversary of the 2013 Rena Plaza Factory collapse in Bangladesh where 1,134 garment workers were killed. Since that tragic event, fashion revolutionaries have been honoring the memories of those lost by encouraging everyone to ask the question: Who made my clothes? The series is part of Fashion Week MN, and its upcoming events include a spring clothing swap from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday, April 20, at St. Catherine University; an ethical wardrobe workshop hosted by the Minnesota Women's Collective from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on Monday, April 24, at True Ethic; a mending lab from 7 to 8:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 25, at Junket: Tossed and Found; and a fashion show from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, April 27, at Hazel & Rose. More ethical gatherings are planned throughout the rest of the month, so follow @Fash_Rev_MN and #FashRev for updates. Events are free.

Through April 29 —SHEILA REGAN

COMEDY

DAVE ATTELL

ACME COMEDY CO.

"We live in a world that's not that fun anymore," says Dave Attell. "You can't

smoke outside; you can't do anything. It's as good as it's gonna get. A comedy club is now the last place you're going to be able to hear not only inappropriate stuff but cool and informative stuff. I think that's what still attracts a lot of people to standup." That's despite some obvious hurdles. "I think people are judgmental of comedy," he states. "People come to the club with their own political correctness and opinions on what's funny and what's not funny and that's cool.... But when they take it to the next level, get offended, and Twitter-hate the comic? I mean, these are just jokes. There's a lot more important things to get upset about." Attell gained a national following with TV shows like *Insomniac with Dave Attell*, *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart*, and his Showtime series, *Dave's Old Porn*. However, he is still seen as one of America's most important and influential comedians. "I go out on the road and work on my act, that's really what I do," he says. "Hopefully down the road I'll do a few more specials and then retire." 8 p.m. Thursday through Saturday; 10:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday. \$28. 708 N. First St., Minneapolis; 612-338-6393. Through Saturday —P.F. WILSON

CONTINUED ON PAGE 185 ►

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CONTINUED FROM THURSDAY ►

FILM/WTF?

FOUND FOOTAGE FESTIVAL

HEIGHTS THEATER

The Found Footage Festival, a traveling freakshow of bizarre VHS gems, will make a one-night stop in Minnesota with an all-new collection of videos that Nick Prueher and Joe Pickett have curated from garage sales, dumpsters, and the deepest, darkest corners of the internet. At the Heights, you'll be watching old TV commercials, corporate training tapes, PSAs on satanic cults, and helpful how-to videos about the proper way to engage in cybersex. They have something extra-special at this installment, as David Letterman donated his personal VHS collection to the duo after retiring from *The Late Show*. In addition to the so-bad-it-must-be-real found footage, you'll be treated to a video of a recent prank where Pickett and Prueher posed as a strongman duo, Chop & Steele, and appeared on local news channels throughout the country. Get ready to laugh, cringe, and probably

have really weird dreams later.
Find tickets and more info at www.foundfootagefest.com. 8 p.m. \$12.3951
Central Ave. NE, Columbia Heights;
763-788-9079. —PATRICK STRAIT

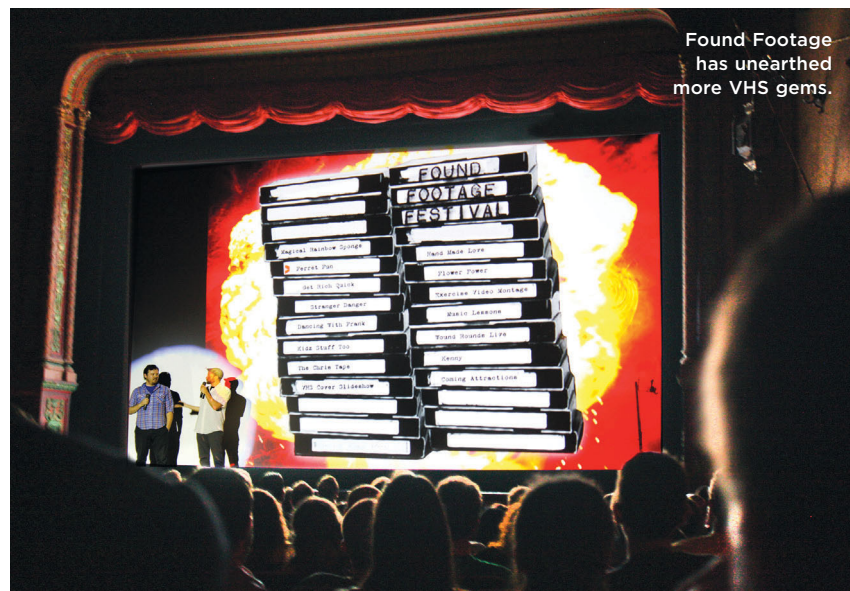
FRIDAY 4.21

DANCE

**ZORONGO FLAMENCO
DANCE THEATRE AND
FLYING FOOT FORUM**

THE COWLES CENTER FOR DANCE
& THE PERFORMING ARTS

Two of the Twin Cities' most innovative percussive dance companies team up as part of the Cowles Center's Merge series. Joe Chvala and his Flying Foot Forum remount "Trines," which juxtaposes the rhythmic possibilities of tap shoes and percussion instruments, and "Filarfolket," a lovely, Swedish folk-rock-inflected work infused with American folk dance, tap, and clogging. The new piece, "Friction," with percussion by Peter O'Gorman, pushes inventive limits even further. Meanwhile, Susana di Palma's Zorongo Flamenco Dance Theatre



COURTESY OF EVENT ORGANIZERS

brings passion to the percussive with “Siempre Flamenco,” a playful full company work “Jaleos” by La Conja, and the emotion-infused premiere of “Rescilenia” by Omayra Amaya, the grandniece of legendary

flamenco dancer Carmen Amaya. 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday; 2 p.m. Sunday. \$30. 528 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis; 612-206-3636. **Through Sunday** —CAMILLE LEFEVRE

CONTINUED ON PAGE 187 ►



June 12-16 & June 19-23

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Emily Trevor's quirky designs come to Envision.

NORTHEAST COLLABORATIVE

CONTINUED FROM FRIDAY ►

COMEDY

BLACKOUT IMPROV

PHOENIX THEATER

On the third Friday of each month, Phoenix Theater becomes home to Blackout, an African American improv troupe that tackles issues concerning today's society. Since getting their start in 2015, the group has made their monthly showcase a must-see event with sketches and music. April's show is titled "Black Is Beautiful. Black Is Sexy," and features a cast of some of the Twin Cities' best improv performers, including John Gebretatose, Alyssa DiVirgilio, Sami Dee, and Duck Washington. While improv is interactive to begin with, what makes Blackout unique is that the show ultimately becomes a back-and-forth dialogue between the performers and the audience, making for a fun, thought-provoking, and empowering evening of comedy. If you missed last month's Black and Funny Improv Festival, this is your opportunity to see the best of Minnesota's booming improv scene in action. Buy early, this show will definitely sell out in advance. 10:30 p.m. \$10. 2605 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis; 612-377-2285. —PATRICK STRAIT

FASHION

ENVISION: SPRING 2017

PILLSBURY MACHINE SHOP

For over a decade, Envision has demonstrated why Twin Cities fashion is noteworthy. This Friday, see what's in store for spring at this season's installment. The location is new, as the party is moving from Orchestra Hall

to the Pillsbury Machine Shop. Local fashions parading down the runway on Minnesota models include threads and accessories from 17 designers and boutiques, including Cliché, Emily Trevor, George Moskal, Kindred Folk, Mona Williams, and Sarah Furnae. DJ Sarah White will spin tunes, and glam views will be abundant, as revelers will be able to perch from the second-story mezzanine as models march by. An after-party at Honey will keep things hopping after the show. Tickets and more info can be found at envisionmpls.com. A portion of the night's proceeds will benefit northeast Minneapolis art gallery Public Functionary. 8 to 11 p.m.; VIP admission at 7 p.m. \$30; \$60-\$80 VIP. 300 Second St. SE, Minneapolis. —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

SATURDAY 4.22

DANCE

COLLIDE THEATRICAL DANCE COMPANY: LE PETIT MOULIN

THE RITZ THEATER

Moulin Rouge, the legendary Parisian cabaret mythologized by no less than four feature films, has long been renowned for dazzlingly excessive spectacle. Seeking to restore some emotional intimacy to the storied locale, the creative team at COLLIDE Theatrical Dance Company has taken a refreshing approach with its original staging, *Le Petit Moulin*. Rather than relying on flashy bombast, *Le Petit Moulin* seeks the inner heart of the club through two sisters coping with the aftermath of WWI via the dance floor. Artistic director Regina Peluso will oversee the choreography, Joshua Campbell will handle stage direction, and Doug Rohde will be taking on musical

CONTINUED ON PAGE 189 ►



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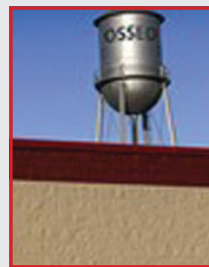
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ERIN BAIANO

CONTINUED FROM SATURDAY ►

direction. Further bolstered by a standout ensemble — including Andrea Mislán, Heather Brockman, Michael Hanna, and Katie Gearty — and live musical accompaniment, *Le Petit Moulin* aspires to nothing less than an exaltation befitting its namesake. The show is in previews Thursday, April 20 through the 2 p.m. show on Saturday, April 22. 7:30 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays; 2 p.m. Saturdays through Sundays. \$26-\$50. 345 13th Ave. NE, Minneapolis; 877-508-7890. **Through May 7 —BRAD RICHASON**

PROTEST

MARCH FOR SCIENCE

CATHEDRAL HILL/MINNESOTA
STATE CAPITOL

Considering how partisan positions have come to influence virtually every aspect of policymaking in the U.S. government, it's easy to forget that scientific findings were once regarded as relatively neutral ground. While past generations of politicians might have argued over the weight of scientific findings, the outright dismissal of research as a de facto partisan stance is a lamentably modern development that prioritizes party allegiance over reality. The scientific community is rising up in support of rhetoric-free research and addressing issues vital to the health of our planet. This Earth Day, cities across the globe will be participating in the March for Science, demonstrating against forces that would denigrate scientifically derived evidence as just another nebulous political position. The Twin Cities march will begin at Cathedral Hill and proceed to the Minnesota State Capitol where a rally featuring a variety of guest speakers is planned. Afterward, nearby

Tin Whiskers Brewery (founded by three electrical engineers) will welcome thirsty marchers and donate a portion of beer sales to the cause. 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Free. Check marchforsciencemn.com for more info. **—BRAD RICHASON**

DANCE

**BRIAN BROOKS
MOVING COMPANY**

NORTHROP

A spring storm sweeps across Northrop's stage as University of Minnesota Dance Program students join the Brian Brooks Moving Company in Brooks' windswept "Torrent." Turbulence and mesmerizing momentum that take dancers to their physical limits characterize his choreography. But there is also a whole lot of fluid movement, as dancers decant their bodies way, way off center. This concert includes several works from the company's repertory, plus a special duet for Brooks and former New York City Ballet principal dancer Wendy Whelan. "First Fall" unites the "It Boy" of contemporary American dance, as Brooks has been called, with one of ballet's supreme stylists. 8 p.m. \$30-\$50. 84 Church St. SE, Minneapolis; 612-624-2345. **—LINDA SHAPIRO**

ART/WEED

**TORCHED:
FUNCTIONAL GLASS IN A
DYSFUNCTIONAL SOCIETY**

GAMUT GALLERY

Much like an elegant wine glass or an intricate beer stein, a well-made glass pipe can be a functional work of art. Revelers at Gamut Gallery will be able to see this

CONTINUED ON PAGE 191 ►

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Suzy Bogguss
May 13, 2017

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MAY 6 2017



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May 6, 2017

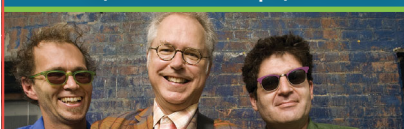
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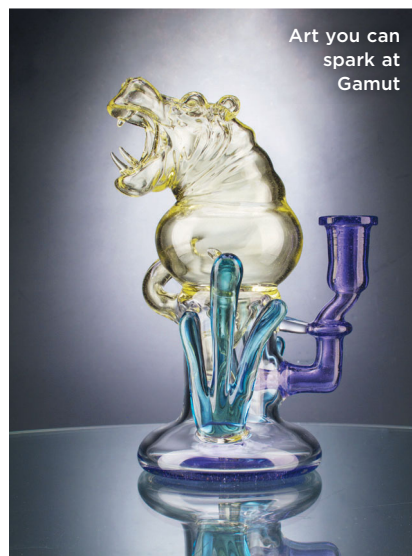
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A-LIST



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CHA GLASS

CONTINUED FROM SATURDAY ►

demonstrated, as glass artists will be showcasing their often complex, sometimes humorous, and strikingly beautiful sculptures, pipes, and jewelry design. The show, curated by local glass artist RepoMn, will feature a variety of pieces. There are floating pigs, an odd robot, and a sweet-ass cobra bong. The 420 VIP preview party on Thursday, April 20, costs \$20, and runs from 8 to 11 p.m. Sarah White with Mica May will provide tunes, with fire dancers and glassblowing demonstrations adding to the festivities. The opening reception from 7 to 11 p.m. on Saturday, April 22, will include performances by Loom In Essence and Nicky Boy Floyd. Admission is \$5. 717 S. 10th St., Minneapolis; 612-367-4327. **Through May 12 —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER**

SUNDAY 4.23

PERFORMANCE

WELCOME TO NIGHT VALE

PANTAGES THEATRE

The *Welcome to Night Vale* podcast debuted in the summer of 2012 and quickly became a hit. Hosted by Cecil Gershwin Palmer, aka Cecil Baldwin, the program centers on a radio station in a fictitious Western desert town. In October 2013, the cast began staging live shows. Needing someone to host the events, Joseph Fink, who created the show along with Jeffrey Cranor, got his wife, Megan Bashwiner, involved. "I've been working with the show from the beginning," she says from her home in New York City. "Joseph needed an actress, and he had one in his house. So I guess I got the job by default." In addition to emceeing the live events,

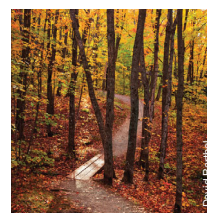
CONTINUED ON PAGE 193 ►



Bridget Donahue



Cal Courneya



David Barnhill

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A-LIST

Megan
Bashwiner



COURTESY OF THE ARTIST

CONTINUED FROM SUNDAY ►

Bashwiner also plays the popular character Deb, described as a "sentient patch of haze." She primarily reads advertisements during the broadcasts. "They said, 'If we're going to have you on the road, we should give you something else to do.'" Watching people record a podcast onstage might not sound exciting, but Bashwiner insists it's quite engaging. "It's great," she says. "Cecil runs the show, and brings out the different guest stars. We're reading from a script, so it is very much like radio theater. Seeing Cecil live is worth the price of admission." 7 p.m. \$30. 710 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis; 612-339-7007. —P.F. WILSON

MONDAY 4.24

FASHION

BLACK MAGIK WOMAN III

NORSEMAN DISTILLERY

The future is still female. At this photography exhibition, which is part of Fashion Week MN, femme photographers, designers, and muses will be collaborating. Once again, Connie Mrotek has curated this fab party and art show, which will showcase work by over a dozen duos. The vodka flowed freely at last year's shindig, which was filled with more glamour, fashion, and art than is typically found on a Monday night. This year will feature a preshow panel talk where the proceeds will benefit nonprofit Reclaim. Visit fashionweekmn.com for more info. 6 to 10 p.m.; 5 p.m. VIP. Free; \$25 VIP admission. 451 Taft St. NE, Minneapolis; 612-643-1933. —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER



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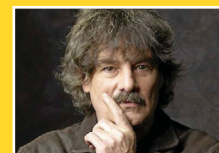
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SAT, APRIL 22



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FRI, APRIL 28



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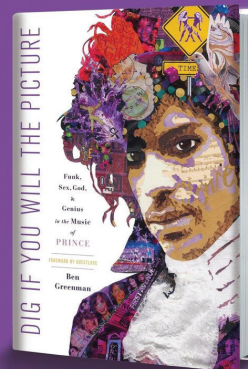
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Artist, Kristi Abbott
APRIL 20 | 3-6PM

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Written by Ben Greenman

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We will be at the City Pages Best of Party April 27- See you there!

STREET *Style*

SMOOTH OPERATORS Channeling an icon at Sade night at Machine Shop. **BY ELLEN LAWSON**



GABRIELA FARIAS

29, YOGA TEACHER

What are you wearing?

Skirt was a gift from my best friend made by her mother who was a Nigerian singer and designer named Tyna Onwudiwe. Hand-me-down jacket, shoes from Nordstrom Rack.

Describe your style:

Minimalistic with a few strong prints and pieces.

Most iconic Sade looks to wear now:

Monochromatic with red lips and hoops!

Soundtrack for this outfit:

"Is It a Crime" by Sade and "Nomalizo" by Letta Mbulu.



MELANIE HILL

23, ADVERTISING ACCOUNT ASSISTANT

What are you wearing?

Topshop navy-blue crop, Indigo Reign linen pants, Ego UK ankle boots.

Describe your style:

Eclectic. Mixing styles from multiple eras.

Most iconic Sade looks to wear now:

Definitely her makeup. Her natural base with the snatched eyebrows and the subtle red lip.

Soundtrack for this outfit:

"Special Affair" by the Internet, "My Cherie Amour" by Stevie Wonder.



SARAH WHITE

THIRTYSOMETHING, PHOTOGRAPHER, SINGER, SOUNDSCAPE MAGIC MAMA

What are you wearing?

American Apparel shirt, skirt from Cliché, shoes from a friend's closet, earrings from B.resale, necklaces from Cvsstings by Lisa Marie Gherardini.

Most iconic Sade looks to wear now:

All denim, red lip! Also, she always blows my mind with her ability to look effortlessly chic.

Soundtrack for this outfit:

"Is It a Crime" by Sade, "Bitch Better Have My Money" by Rihanna (StarRo Remix).



SERITA COLETTE

30, TEACHER AT SERITAYOGA, PERFORMANCE ARTIST

What are you wearing?

Shirt and dress from Buffalo Exchange, Sven clogs, faux leather jacket from a consignment shop in LA.

Describe your style:

I love '90s looks. I was born in Kerala, India, so I appreciate a lot of color, going monochrome from time to time. I prefer lightly used to new.

Most iconic Sade looks to wear now:

Embroidered jacket, white satin dress, hair adorned with a flower, dark lips.

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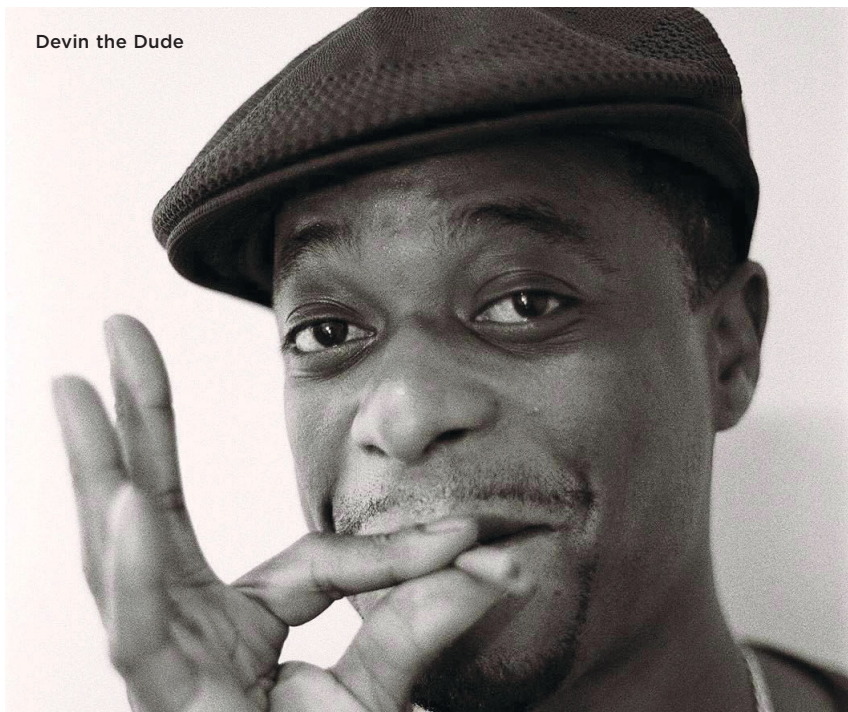
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Devin the Dude



OLIVER BERNARDT

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19

DEVIN THE DUDE

AMSTERDAM BAR AND HALL,
WEDNESDAY 4.19

Few rappers love weed quite as much as Devin the Dude — too bad he isn't visiting one day later, on the stoner holiday of 4/20. Devin first emerged in the early '90s as a member of Odd Squad, signed to the influential Southern rap label Rap-A-Lot, then joined Scarface's group Facemob briefly before releasing his first solo LP, *The Dude*, in 1998. A guest appearance the following year on Dr. Dre's "Fuck You" boosted anticipation for his second album, 2002's *Just Tryin' ta Live*, featuring his most beloved pot jam, "Doobie Ashtray." He may have peaked commercially in 2007 with *Waitin' to Inhale*, highlighted by the Andre 3000 and Snoop collab "What a Job," but he's been making new music consistently since then, including his latest album, *Acoustic Levitation*, released just last month. With Manny Phesto, BdotCroc, Rich Garvey, and DJ Snuggles. 21+. 7 p.m. \$18-\$20. 6 Sixth St. W., St. Paul; 612-285-3112. —MICHAEL MADDEN

21 SAVAGE

MYTH, WEDNESDAY 4.19

Though 21 Savage is just as polarizing as many other young Atlanta rappers, he has none of Lil Yachty's bubblegum hooks or Rich the Kid's propulsive energy. Instead, 21 represents a new wave of cold, minimal ATL gangsta rap. He initially established his sound in 2015 with the

supremely menacing "Red Opps," produced, like much of his early material, by Sonny Digital. But last year 21 hit it off with superproducer Metro Boomin and released the moody and atmospheric *Savage Mode* EP, featuring certified hits "No Heart" and "X." 21 slowed down in the past six months after dropping two mixtapes and two EPs in just over a year, but he's stayed in the limelight with guest appearances on songs by Drake, Meek Mill, and Travis Scott. Most recently, he delivered the sneakily catchy chorus and first verse on Mike Will Made It's monstrous "Gucci on My," also featuring YG and Migos. Young M.A. and Young Nudy open. All ages. 8 p.m. \$26.50-\$127. 3090 Southlawn Dr., Maplewood; 651-779-6984. —MICHAEL MADDEN

BOB MOULD (SOLO ELECTRIC)

With Kyle Werstein (Mon.), Fury Things (Tue.), and LOTT (Wed.). Daily from April 17-19, 7 p.m. \$30. Turf Club, 1601 University Ave. W., St. Paul; 651-647-0486.

ERIC LEEDS & LP MUSIC

April 19, 7 p.m. \$15. Dakota Jazz Club & Restaurant, 1010 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis; 612-332-1010.

RED PLANET WITH BILL CARROTHERS (CD RELEASE SHOW)

Daily from April 18-19, 7 p.m. \$15. Crooners Lounge & Supper Club, 6161 Hwy. 65 NE, Minneapolis; 763-571-9020.

SHELBY J. (ALBUM RELEASE SHOWS)

Daily from April 19-20, 10 p.m. \$40-\$60. Dakota Jazz Club & Restaurant, 1010 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis; 612-332-1010.

SLEEP

With Mono. April 19, 9 p.m. \$25. First Avenue, 701 1st Ave. N., Minneapolis; 612-338-8388.

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Machinery Hill
Wednesday, April 26 at 7:30pm

Willie Murphy
Friday, April 28 at 9pm

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FRIDAY, APRIL 21

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SATURDAY, APRIL 22

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BETTY WHO

SUN. APRIL 23 | 18+ | 7PM | \$15
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MUSIC CRITICS' PICKS

Stephin Merritt of
the Magnetic Fields



MARCELO KRASILCIC

THURSDAY, APRIL 20

CELEBRATION 2017

Four day event celebrating the life and legacy of Prince, featuring music by the Revolution, Morris Day & the Time, New Power Generation, and Liv Warfield & Shelby J with members of 3rdEyeGirl, with tours, presentations, and panel discussions. Tickets and more info at official-paisleypark.com/pages/celebration2017. Daily from April 20-23, 11 a.m.-10 p.m. \$499-\$999. Paisley Park Studios, 7801 Audubon Road, Chanhassen; 952-854-5483.

MAYDAY PARADE

With Kuckle Puck and Milestones. All ages. April 20, 6 p.m. \$25. First Avenue, 701 1st Ave. N., Minneapolis; 612-338-8388.

THURSDAY

With Cities Aviv, Touche Amore, and Basement. April 20, 6:30 p.m. \$29.50-\$33. Cabooze, 917 Cedar Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-338-6425.

FRIDAY, APRIL 21

BOBBY RAPS

AMSTERDAM BAR AND HALL, FRIDAY 4.21

Things are heating up for St. Paul rapper and producer Bobby Raps, member of Thestand4rd alongside Allan Kingdom, Corbin, and Psymun. Bobby's alias, like Chance the Rapper's, is a little misleading: He does so much more than just spit verses, and his moody, genre-bending tracks have made him an in-demand producer. Though Bobby started out as an internet phenomenon, he's made it to the big leagues with a production credit on "Sidewalks," the Kendrick Lamar feature on the Weeknd's world-conquering album *Starboy*. He kicked off 2017 with

two new solo singles, "Desensitized" and "Purgatory," on Republic Records; the latter is particularly affecting, an intense, haunting song about death and addiction. Now Bobby's gearing up to release a new solo project, *Mark*. Maxo Kream and Izell Pyramid open. 18+. 8 p.m. \$5 with RSVP. 6 Sixth St. W., St. Paul; 612-285-3112. —MICHAEL MADDEN

CASHMERE CAT

April 21, 8 p.m. \$18. The Loft, 711 Hennepin Ave., 4th floor, Minneapolis; 612-333-6100.

DEEP PURPLE: A TRIBUTE FOR THE HEADS

Prince tribute featuring Moodyman, Daniel Paul Cortez, Christian James, Miss Elaine Eo, and Medicinall. April 21, 9 p.m. \$18-\$20. 7th St. Entry, 701 1st Ave. N., Minneapolis; 612-338-8388.

DEF LEPPARD

With Poison and Tesla. April 21, 7 p.m. Xcel Energy Center, 175 W. Kellogg Blvd., St. Paul; 651-726-8240.

GLEN PHILLIPS

April 21, 8 p.m. \$25. The Cedar Cultural Center, 416 Cedar Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-338-2674.

PAULA COLE

April 21, 7 p.m. \$45. Dakota Jazz Club & Restaurant, 1010 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis; 612-332-1010.

THE NADAS

With the Billy's and the Usual Things. April 21, 8 p.m. \$12-\$15. Turf Club, 1601 University Ave. W., St. Paul; 651-647-0486.

SATURDAY, APRIL 22

THE MAGNETIC FIELDS

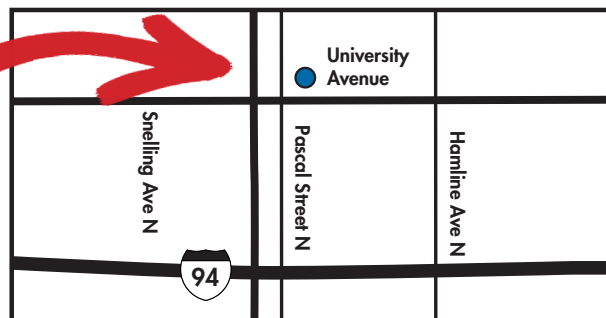
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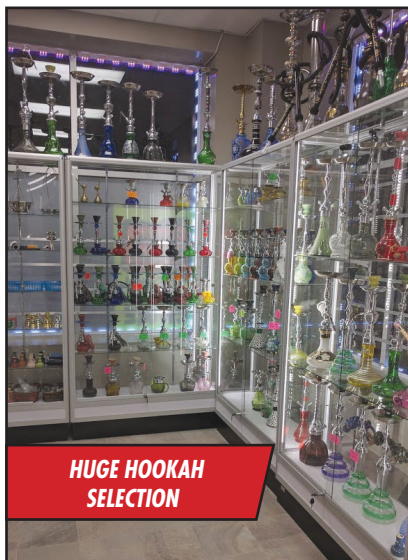
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Tuesday, April 25
The Cedar Presents
An Evening with KAHULANUI
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Wednesday, April 26
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4.22 TRAMPS LIKE US (SPRINGSTEEN TRIBUTE)

4.28 JAY REATARD BIRTHDAY SHOW

4.29 TEK, MARIA ISA, CRUNCHY KIDS

5.5 MALAMANYA

5.6 DUECES UP! DANCE PARTY

5.12 LATE NIGHT FLIGHTS (EP RELEASE)

5.13 RAMONES MANIA 2017

6.7 FACE TO FACE

6.9 BOWIEOKE (DAVID BOWIE KARAOKE)

6.23 BODY/HEAD (FEAT. KIM GORDON/BILL NACE)



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FRIDAY, MAY 26 **VICEROYS**

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JAY BLAKESBERG

new *50 Song Memoir*, which includes one track for each year in the life of chief Magnet Stephin Merritt through 2015. The Fields, expanded to a septet for this tour, will reportedly play seven instruments each on a stage littered with musical and cultural artifacts of the last half-century. Merritt's new songs mingle minutia from his life with the wider world's parallel stumbles, and his arch, sometimes subtle commentary is equally poignant and witty, all sung in his crooning baritone and set to his band's chamber-pop sounds. Merritt launches on a wild ride of subject matter that takes him literally from birth ("Wonder Where I'm From") to a finale that embraces the freakiness of 21st-century love ("Somebody's Fetish"), sifting through a blizzard, diseases, motherly advice, a riot, surfing, cockroaches, and ethical dilemmas along the way. Stage director José Zayas aptly characterizes the performance as a true "magical mystery tour." 8 p.m. \$35. 10 E. Exchange St., St. Paul; 651-290-1200. —RICK MASON

ALLAN RAYMAN

April 22, 8 p.m. \$19. 7th St. Entry, 701 1st Ave. N., Minneapolis; 612-338-8388.

BETTY WHO

With Verite. April 22, 7 p.m. \$20. Triple Rock Social Club, 629 Cedar Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-333-7399.

CORNBREAD HARRIS (CD RELEASE SHOW AND 90TH BIRTHDAY PARTY)

April 22, 6:30 p.m. \$12-\$15. The Hook and Ladder Theater & Lounge, 3010 Minnehaha Ave., Minneapolis.

DANCE ON 'TIL DAWN 2017 CELEBRATION AFTER PARTY

Celebration of Prince featuring Andre Cymone, Apollonia Kotero, Jellybean Johnson, Dez Dickerson, Marva King, G Sharp & the Bizne\$\$,

and DJ Lenka Paris. Tickets and more info here. April 22, 10:30 p.m.-4 a.m. \$43-\$125. The Metropolitan Ballroom & Clubroom, 5418 Wayzata Blvd., Minneapolis; 612-238-4444.

HYMIE'S RECORD STORE DAY BLOCK PARTY

Featuring the Blind Shake, Black Market Brass, Charlie Parr, Farewell Milwaukee, Southside Aces, Ben Weaver, Reina del Cid, Dingus, Mike Munson, and Sabyre Rae. All ages. April 22, 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Free. Hymie's Vintage Records, 3820 E. Lake St., Minneapolis; 612-729-8890.

MEMORIAL STREET PARTY

Outdoors dance party honoring the life and legacy of Prince. All ages. RSVP and more info here. April 22, 5 p.m. Free; RSVP required. First Avenue, 701 1st Ave. N., Minneapolis; 612-338-8388.

RECORD STORE DAY WEEKEND AT FLASHLIGHT VINYL

Featuring exclusive RSD releases, donuts, giveaways, and music by Mark Butcher, Egypto Knuckles, Feel Free Hi Fi, Sam Gould, John Hardy, Marlon James, DJ Just Nine, Frank Lyon, Slamdunkapher, Tarik Thornton, Why Not Crew, and Nola Wick. April 22, 8 a.m. April 23, 12 a.m.-8 p.m. Free. Flashlight Vinyl, 1519 Central Ave NE, Minneapolis, Minnesota; 612-558-3838.

RECORD STORE DAY AT ELECTRIC FETUS

Featuring exclusive RSD releases, prize giveaways, Glam Doll Donuts, Peace Coffee, Heggies pizza, food trucks, in-store specials, kids' craft area, and live music from Monica LaPlante, Flipp, Sims, Marah in the Mainsail, and DJ Jake Rudh. April 22, 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Free. Electric Fetus, 2000 4th Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-870-9300.

SPRING JAM 2017

Featuring A\$AP Ferg, Jon Bellion, Robert Delong, and Bad Bad Hats. Tickets and more info at springjam.umn.edu. April 22, 4-10:30 p.m. \$25 UMN students; \$40. University of Minnesota Parking Lot 37, 1811 5th St SE, Minneapolis; 612-625-8269.

THE DAMNED

With Bleached. April 22, 7 p.m. \$25-\$30. Fine Line Music Cafe, 318 1st Ave. N., Minneapolis; 612-338-8100.

THEE BEAUTIFUL ONES

Prince dance party featuring DJ Chuck Chizzle and DJ Fundraiser. April 22, 9 p.m. \$15. Five

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fri : april 21

7pm : laura and sean's movie
and music trivia
10pm : annie and the bang bang,
kiss the tiger, jason presley

sat : april 22

7pm : trivia mafia presents
331 drinkin' spelling bee
10pm : porcupine, valet, in corridors

sun : april 23

3-5pm : aka sunday presents:
billy sloan ans "slick" rick janke
8pm : trivia mafia

mon : april 24

8pm : the roe family singers
10pm : doug otto and friends

tue : april 25

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SUNDAY, APRIL 23

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MONDAY, APRIL 24

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TUESDAY, APRIL 25

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SUNDAY, APRIL 23

THE PURPLE PARTY

Tribute party for Prince featuring GSharp & the Bizne\$. April 23, 7 p.m. \$10-\$12. Lee's Liquor Lounge, 101 Glenwood Ave. N., Minneapolis; 612-338-9491.

TWINSMITH

With Tyte Jeff and Candid Kid. April 23, 7 p.m. \$8-\$10. 7th St. Entry, 701 1st Ave. N., Minneapolis; 612-338-8388.

MONDAY, APRIL 24

SFJAZZ COLLECTIVE

DAKOTA JAZZ CLUB, MONDAY 4.24 & TUESDAY 4.25

Every year, SFJAZZ Collective brings together eight of the best jazz musicians on the planet to focus on a single major artist. Each member provides a fresh arrangement of one of that artist's compositions and also contributes a new piece. Following tributes to Monk, Coltrane, McCoy Tyner, and Stevie Wonder, now it's Miles Davis' turn. The current collective — alto saxophonist Miguel Zenón, tenor saxophonist David Sánchez, trumpeter Sean Jones, trombonist Robin Eubanks, Warren Wolf on vibes, pianist Edward Simon, bassist Matt Penman, and drummer Obed Calvaire — resurrects Miles' maverick spirit in sublime ways on the live recording *Music of Miles Davis & Original Compositions*. Zenón gives "Nardis" a Balkan twist, Jones shifts the focus on "So What" by sinking its definitive bass line, and Calvaire lets "Bitches Brew" simmer fiercely as a scurrying, shape-shifting tour de force. Outstanding new tunes include Simon's tropical flirtation "Feel the Groove," Penman's

scintillating "Your Turn," and Sánchez's sly, undulating "Canto." 7 p.m. \$30-\$40. 9 p.m. \$25-\$30. 1010 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis; 612-332-5299. —RICK MASON

TUESDAY, APRIL 25

KAHULANUI

CEDAR CULTURAL CENTER, TUESDAY 4.25 The Hawaii nine-piece Kahulanui revisits and reworks the early 20th-century fusion of their islands' music and mainland jazz that began in the '20s and continued with the arrival of U.S. military personnel during World War II. At the core of their sound are the guitar, ukulele, and steel guitar of traditional Polynesian music, while the rhythm section and bristly quartet of horns tear off on the brisk slither of classic swing. Leader and guitarist Lolena Naipo Jr., who sings mainly in Hawaiian, was inspired by his grandfather, a member of the Royal Hawaiian Band and the composer of two tunes on Kahulanui's Grammy-nominated 2014 album *Hula Ku'I*. Kahulanui's music jumps and frolics with the spirit of the pounding surf, evoking a long-ago era that still resonates and fills dance floors today. 7:30 p.m. \$18-\$20. 416 Cedar Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-338-2674. —RICK MASON

BIGGIE DAY DANCE PARTY

Celebration of Notorious B.I.G., featuring a rap contest, cake, prizes, activities, with music by DJ Airman Heat and hosted by Big Wiz. April 25, 9 p.m. \$10. Honey, 205 E. Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis; 612-746-0306.

SILVERSUN PICKUPS

With Kiev. April 25, 7 p.m. \$28-\$30. First Avenue, 701 1st Ave. N., Minneapolis; 612-338-8388.

SONDRE LERCHE

With Dedekind Cut. April 25, 7 p.m. \$20. 7th St. Entry, 701 1st Ave. N., Minneapolis; 612-338-8388.

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Boy, Bye

How do I tell someone they aren't invited to my orgy?

I'm a queer girl living with a male partner. This weekend, we found ourselves in an after-hours club, made some new friends, and ended up at a house with two other guys and a girl. Things were pretty playful with everyone except for one of the guys. We all wanted him gone, but he wouldn't take the hint. He bought the booze for the after-party, so we were a little unsure of the etiquette of asking him to leave. Neither I nor the other girl was interested. I made it clear that penetration was off the menu for me, and everyone respected this—except the one guy. He asked if I would do anal, and I refused. He shoved his fingers in my ass, and I stopped him. I positioned myself away from him, but he somehow got behind me again and put his bare dick in my ass—though barely. The host pulled him off me. We were admittedly all a bit fucked up from partying. I had a stern talk with him about respecting consent—but when I felt his dick enter me from behind a second time, I got upset. My boyfriend threatened him, and the guy punched my boyfriend and broke my sweetheart's nose. The host threw the guy out with no pants, so he had a well-deserved walk of shame. We don't know the guy's last name, so we can't charge him.

My question is this: As a couple, we enjoy threesomes/moresomes/swingers clubs, etc., and this wasn't the first time a fun night was ruined by a persistent dick monster. Do you have any suggestions for dealing with pricks like these? We all agree he should have been kicked out before the offenses added up. Maybe he should have been kicked out from the start. What's the etiquette of telling someone they can't join in? I'm done dancing around assholes' feelings.

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"Persistent dick monster" (PDM) is putting it mildly, QUEEN. This guy sexually assaulted you and physically assaulted your boyfriend—that guy is a VSP (violent sexual predator), not a PDM. And even if you don't know his last name, report the night's events to the police. It's possible this asshole is already known to the cops—hell, it's possible he assaulted someone else on his pantsless way home and they're already holding him and they'd be happy to add



Dan Savage

more charges to the ones this asshole is already facing.

I'm not saying you have to report him, of course. It's estimated that only 15 to 35 percent of all sexual assaults are reported to the police, and only 9 percent of all accused rapists are prosecuted. While recognizing some folks have legitimate reasons for not going to the cops, we need to get those numbers up—because unreported rapes and sexual assaults can't be prosecuted.

As for preventing a PDM/VSP from ruining future encounters, advance planning—and familiarity among participants—is the best way to ensure a good experience. Spontaneous can be fun, but it's difficult to pull off safely with groups. Another lesson to be learned from this encounter: Getting shitfaced/shwasted may not be the best plan. It's often the worst plan—getting fucked up rarely results in good sex, even between people who fuck on the regular. Plus, it's easier to ignore red flags/gut feelings: Having to remind someone about consent is a major red flag, QUEEN, and one we're likelier to overlook when we're shwasted. Polite dismissal of unwanted touches should be enough. If this reminder has to be repeated twice, that participant should have their pass to moresome mountain revoked immediately.

Even kind and decent people can be terrible about taking hints—especially when doing so means getting cut out of a drunken fuckfest. So don't hint, tell. There's no rule of etiquette that can paper over the discomfort and awkwardness of that moment, so your group's designated speaker-upper will just have to power through it. And if you're going to drink and group in the future, hew to a strict BYOB policy. You don't ever want to be in a position where you hesitate to show someone the door because they brought the booze.

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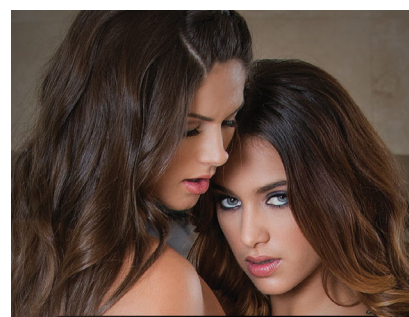
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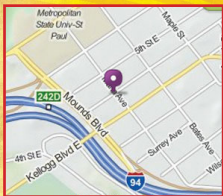
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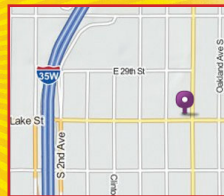
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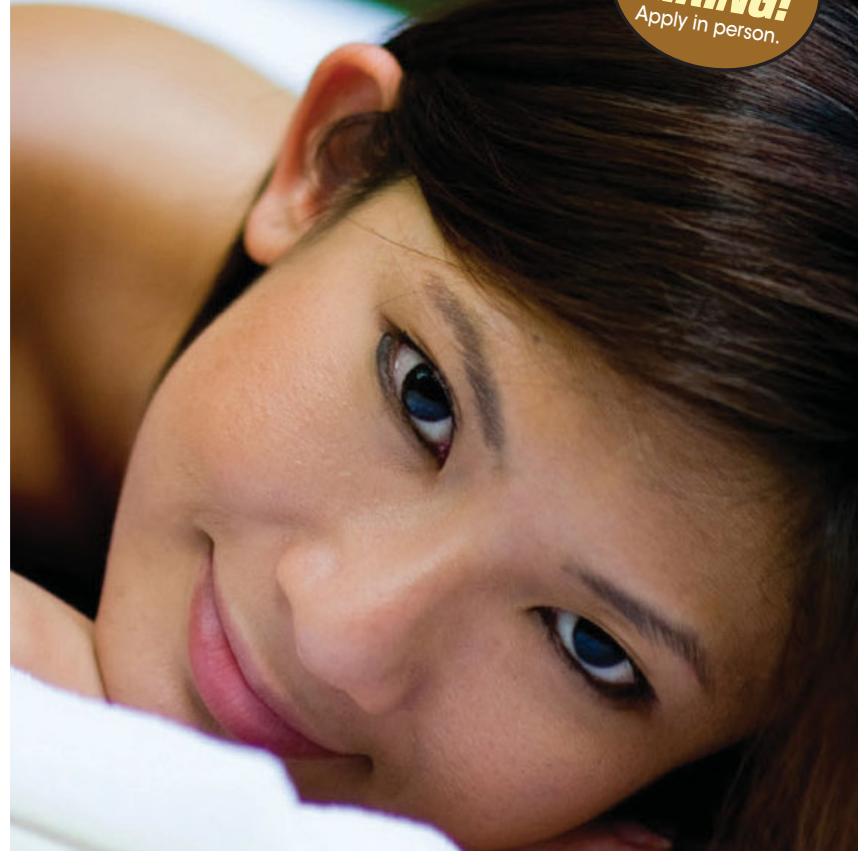
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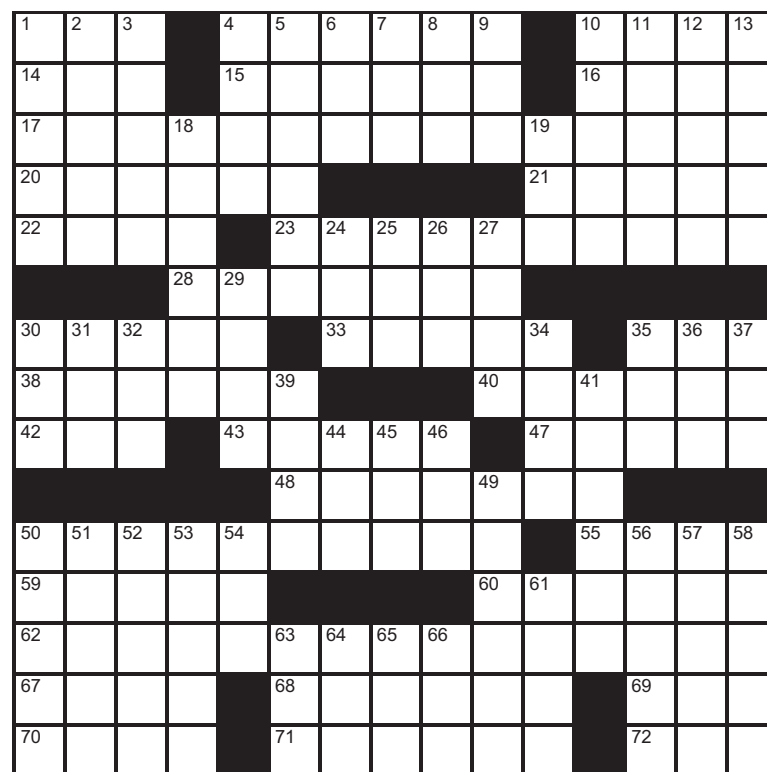
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Across

- 1 Life, the universe, and everything
- 4 Door to another world
- 10 Bread that sops up curry
- 14 Glam guy's neckwear
- 15 With 59-Across, Golden State Warrior's home
- 16 Veal osso ____
- 17 Consul to Mars?
- 20 Sign up for, as class
- 21 They might be getting the house
- 22 Calendar span
- 23 Wooden toy brand intended to be played solitaire?
- 28 "Hamilton," e.g.
- 30 Company whose name is quacked out in ads
- 33 Doles (out)
- 35 Stick (out)
- 38 & 40 Scrubbing pad just sitting unused?
- 42 Barbecue leftover?
- 43 One who does lines in public
- 47 Building wing
- 48 Shire residents
- 50 Lady who dances to Ravel?
- 55 "I could ____ horse!"
- 59 See 15-Across
- 60 Enter
- 62 "Marlon, the thing I was talking about? It's over there?"
- 67 Singer Te Kanawa

- 68 Snatch for cash
- 69 Miner's quest
- 70 The "A" in "A.D."
- 71 Job interview term
- 72 Total heel

Down

- 1 Monks' residence
- 2 TV producer Michaels
- 3 Actress Linney
- 4 Game with chalk
- 5 Some toothbrushes
- 6 Hit hard
- 7 "Gettin' shit done" initially
- 8 In the style of
- 9 Elle article
- 10 Paid hoopster
- 11 Sound recording
- 12 Squirrel food
- 13 Like Thor
- 18 Not out of the ordinary
- 19 "Ray Donovan" channel, for short
- 24 Tricked-out tire part
- 25 Just chill
- 26 Feed bag nibble
- 27 Red Hot Chili Peppers bassist
- 29 Sch. with the Daily Bruin newspaper
- 30 2 letters
- 31 To's opposite
- 32 Progressive type, briefly
- 34 "This minute!," in the ER
- 35 1: Abbr.
- 36 Enjoy coke, say

- 37 Ten-gallon hat wearer
- 39 Four doses?
- 41 Install on the throne
- 44 Tabby
- 45 Silk sash
- 46 Football positions: Abbr.
- 49 1987 comedy about lounge singers stuck in the Middle East
- 50 Polish Easter cake
- 51 Hatch of the Senate
- 52 Have class?
- 53 Film composer Morricone
- 54 Skatepark "cool"
- 56 With a specific purpose
- 57 Beauty queen's prop
- 58 Put in one's two cents, maybe
- 61 Look at
- 63 Signs off on
- 64 Alicante aunt
- 65 "Good" cholesterol
- 66 CNN commentator Navarro

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